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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Though a possibility of some understanding between Britain and Japan has often been discussed, the news of the treaty took everyone by surprise. Both the instrument and preamble are singularly explicit in their terms and it is not easy to see what further information the Opposition desire to extract, especially after the publication of Lord Lansdowne's despatch to Sir Claude Macdonald. The treaty expresses the "discovery" of the similarity between Japanese and British interests in the Far East. Topographically Japan's interests lie in Korea, Great Britain's in China, and the two contracting parties bind themselves to maintain the independence of these two countries and to take measures to safeguard each other's interests in respect of them. If either party becomes thus engaged in war with another Power, the second contracting Power shall maintain a strict neutrality and attempt to prevent other Powers from joining hostilities. But if these efforts fail, the other party will make common cause with its ally. Also both parties agree not to enter into any other agreement that may prejudice the interests so described. The agreement is to remain in force for five years. It is expressly stated in the preamble that the peace of the Far East is the prime object of the treaty and the alliance is designed to secure "equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China and Korea".

The treaty has been received abroad with unusual common sense and reticence; but among the multitude of comments the historic significance of an alliance between East and West unprecedented in modern times has been overlooked. The German press welcome the treaty because they regard it as directed against Russia, and now that Manchuria has been publicly defined by Lord Lansdowne as a part of China, on whose integrity the instrument insists, the popularity of the treaty should increase. The Russian people feel perhaps too much confidence in Russian perennial solidity to be much affected by temporary alliances; but in France, where the Russian alliance is the continual subject of nervous criticism, it is felt that this treaty is an effective answer, so far as the East is concerned, to the dual alliance. The Americans affect a certain pleasure and perhaps they have no particular objection to a possible checking of their friends' schemes. Apart from its likely effect on the several nations the generally

expressed opinion that the treaty represents a radical change in British ideas of the value of a "free hand" is supported by Lord Lansdowne's speech on Thursday night. It is a satisfactory sign of confidence in the peaceful intentions expressed in the preamble that the treaty, even in this country, has not been taken as an opportunity for an outpouring of anti-English venom.

The discussion of the treaty in the two Houses on Thursday was unimportant. The general upshot was that both sides on the whole thought the move a good one; though of course the Opposition had to criticise, and suggest impossible dangers and unlikely contingencies. The only item of any significance was the explicit declaration, elicited by Lord Rosebery from the Foreign Secretary, that the Government do, as they always have done, regard Manchuria as an integral portion of the Chinese Empire. We agree with Lord Lansdowne entirely that it is in the interests of peace that our relations with Japan are now in the form of an alliance, not "a good understanding" which means nothing. It is better in every way that these things should be defined precisely and not left in a vague and indeterminate position.

When Wei-hai-wei was first leased there was much self-congratulation in the Foreign Office or at any rate amongst members of the Government as though on a successful counter to the Russian occupation of Port Arthur. The extraction of the confession that the new harbour would not repay the cost of fortification is the natural sequel to moves of this kind. The only parallel is the surrender of Port Hamilton. The eager avowal that Wei-hai-wei would still be useful as a health resort gave Lord Rosebery an opening such as he enjoys. "Piano" was the absolute adjective with which to label Lord Onslow's explanations; but it was almost kind of Lord Rosebery to use ridicule rather than some more serious weapon. It may be true that some day possibly Wei-hai-wei may become unexpectedly valuable, as did Hong Kong, but that was no reason for boasting three years ago that it was comparable with Port Arthur, a beautiful natural harbour already strongly fortified, nor for making an agreement with Germany which cut off the harbour from sharing in the commercial advantages of a rich hinterland.

The Government's amazing indiscretion—it would be very unfair to father it on its mouthpiece, Lord Cranborne, who might very well as on former occasions refer the inquirer to his Leader—in revealing diplomatic secrets as to international communications previous to the Spanish-American war has led to the results any person of ordinary intelligence might have foreseen.

Every European country is nursing resentment against us, and Germany in particular has flatly contradicted our Government's version of the story. The German version and ours—re-stated in the House this week by Lord Cranborne—are absolutely incompatible: and the whole situation is extremely unpleasant. We find a newspaper man in New York coolly asking for credence in preference to the German ambassador. Mr. Smalley is really growing too ridiculous. Still if, as we do not doubt, he really was as intimate with Mr. McKinley as he gave the world to understand, there is significance in his information that the President kept back a communication from the Spanish Government "virtually conceding" all the American demands on the very eve of the war. We never thought the Americans went into that war with clean hands but we had not conceived that they were so soiled as the "Times" correspondent suggests or rather affirms. The "Westminster Gazette" finds it as staggering as we do. It looks as though Mr. Smalley too were revealing State secrets. In his excuse, however, it may be urged, with much truth, that he is not a diplomatic person.

The Boer casualties reported last week amounted in all to 717, of whom 574 were prisoners. It is the largest list in the second part of the war. The success was chiefly due to what has been described as Lord Kitchener's "drive" in which a considerable force under De Wet was driven up against the blockhouses. De Wet himself escaped by a repetition of Hannibal's tactics. He stampeded the cattle and got through with a small party in the midst of them. Touching the pursuit of De Wet—whose identity with a famous general of the same name in previous engagements has been just discovered by the "Times"—a succession of sporting metaphors have been offered us. Lord Kitchener has made a "haul" and a "bag" and now a "drive". Those who are inclined to twit Lord Kitchener with this ill success should remember that in the best calculated drive some birds must always break away. Two unhappy incidents have been reported, in which we lost 23 killed and 55 wounded. In one a convoy of donkey wagons moving from Beaufort West under 100 men was captured by 600 Boers; in the other a detachment of Doran's column was rushed during the night near Calvinia. Some captured Boer officers, on whose Herodotean stories it is unsafe to rely, have estimated the Boer forces at 12,000, whom they describe as irreconcilable, but confess that the dearth of food stuff is alarming.

The eighth New Zealand contingent has left for South Africa, and it is announced that there are 5,000 more New Zealanders prepared to respond to the ninth call if it should be necessary to make it. Meetings have been held during the week in Sydney, Melbourne, and Cape Town to protest against Continental slanders on the British forces, and almost the first business of the Dominion Parliament which assembled on Thursday will be to pass a strong resolution to the same effect. At the Cape, as in New Zealand, it is considered that the most effectual way to punish the slanderous foreigner would be to imitate Canada in the matter of differential duties favouring British goods. At Tuesday's meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute Lord Strathcona declared that not a single man in Canada dare call himself pro-Boer. He might have said the same thing of the whole empire. It is a source of great annoyance in Australia that the federal Government was so slow in offering further troops for South Africa. What, asks one Melbourne paper, will they think of us in Toronto? and there is a pleasing suggestion of competitive loyalty in the question.

It is not easy to reconcile Mr. Markham's latest action with common-sense. He printed a letter in the "Times", for which the "Times" afterwards apologised on their own part, attacking Mr. Forster. Mr. Forster, writing from Africa, demanded an apology and received an answer from Mr. Markham's solicitors that they were ready to do service. When the case came before a grand jury Mr. Markham acknowledged the libel, no evidence was called and his counsel only pleaded for extenuation of damages. The gist of the libel lay in stigmatising Mr. Forster as one of the Kimberley gang,

and the contention was that in South Africa this would be accepted as indicating a connexion with illicit diamond dealing. The implication, taken in connexion with Mr. Forster's official position, was calculated to injure his reputation, and the jury assessed the damages at £2,000. Why did Mr. Markham do this very gratuitous thing?

The Government has come out of the debate on the Remount question even less well in the Upper than in the Lower House. The plain fact is as Lord Rosebery put it: the Government has been defrauded by its agents in many parts of the world and the sooner an inquiry is made into the especial case as well as the general efficiency of the Remount Department the better for the country. Lord Rosebery is great at country inns and the affidavit which he read from the German waiter, who attended on the Selecting Committee, gives the very atmosphere of horse bargaining. Lord Lonsdale, who was most cavalierly treated in the matter of his supersession from the Remount Department, told a yet better tale of the remount inspector who selected and assessed at £80 and £100 horses which had been sent off to auction anonymously as absolutely useless. Both tales were not less serious for being humorous. Since Moses received his gross of green spectacles horse bargaining has been allowed a chartered freedom from honesty; but we do not raise a Moses to bargain with others of similar names. The Government shirked the issue. The apology that an emergency warrants a modicum of inefficiency and extravagance is tantamount to arguing that the War Office is only organised to operate in time of peace. A properly organised department enjoys being put to the test.

Lord George Hamilton gave the right answer to the representatives of the new Indian Famine Union when he informed them that they could tell him nothing he did not already know. He might have added that the inquiries and inquiries which they advocate would disclose nothing of material importance which is not already well known or easily accessible to the Government of India and its officials. His final reply might indeed have been given at once when he was first approached instead of postponing it till the recent debate had disclosed the weakness of the case he had to meet. Possibly he refrained out of deference to the many respectable names which have been associated with the movement in its present form. It is a pity that so many well-intentioned but ill-informed persons and personages allowed themselves to be drawn by a party which had its origin in a desire to embarrass rather than to assist the Indian administration.

Although the newspapers, as in duty bound, describe Mr. Chamberlain's speech in the City as "important", there really was nothing new in it whatever. This was inevitable, no doubt, and we do not wish in any way to detract from the significance of Mr. Chamberlain's triumph. If ever a statesman earned an ovation, the Colonial Secretary has done so: it was his due. But a recital of the causes and justification of the war is neither exciting nor instructive at this hour of the day. The definitive announcement that there were certain individuals, (Mr. Steyn presumably, and Mr. Reitz), who would in no circumstances be included in any amnesty, or be allowed to remain in South Africa, was satisfactory. Mr. Balfour's remark, that great as had been Mr. Chamberlain's achievements, the greatest still remained in the pacification of South Africa, struck the right note.

If the discussion on a few lines of the new Procedure proposals takes four days how long will it be before the nineteen pages are passed? If the answer is to be mathematical, the prospect is appalling and much as the House of Commons falls short in businesslike ways, its reformation seems hardly worth the time or trouble. From sheer dulness the country will cease to attend to the formless debates. The most vigorous fight was waged, as might have been expected, round the insistence on an apology from an offending member. The tender consciences of the Nationalists were smitten: they saw themselves offenders and felt their inability to

write an apology to a Sassenach; and the result of the passing of the clause might eventually disfranchise in a practical sense more Irish constituencies than North Galway. But the strength of argument did not lie wholly with the Government. There are ministers who have previously offended against the laws as well as what Sir William Harcourt called the "instinct of the House".

An apology of this sort puts perhaps something of a premium on hypocrisy and at best its exaction suggests the nearness of the resemblance between the members of the House and of the nursery. But setting aside those who are haunted by the queer notion that an M.P. is not as other men are and must be dealt with quite differently from other men, we cannot imagine how any man can really think a banishment for 20, 40 or 80 days and a proper apology is punishment too severe for offenders who "cheek" the Chair, resist the police—by sprawling among the benches for instance—and who, roaring and blustering, have finally to be dragged from the House. Surely Mr. Gray has, with us, seen this take place? Were he to say that he had not, it would be perilously near a confession that he had not been very constant in his attendance at the Chamber. It seems he is fearful lest the "sincere apology" demanded may manufacture hypocrites: but would he deprecate the oath of allegiance on the ground that it might in some cases be lip service only, and would he like to allow those who intend making violent speeches against England, and for the Boers, to contract out of it?

Mr. Redmond, with Sir William Harcourt as his lieutenant, caught Mr. Balfour in a constitutional slip peculiarly unfortunate in view of Mr. Balfour's precise care for Procedure. Last year under the imperative stress of business emergency Mr. Balfour took all the Supplementary Estimates in one vote and promised that he would not thus establish a precedent. He was going to do the same thing this year when he was pulled up by Mr. Redmond. Last session the Speaker announced that if the change was to be repeated ten days' notice was to be given, and this notice was actually given by Mr. Austen Chamberlain; but either there was "so much floor and so little House" or Mr. Austen was so inconspicuous that his announcement escaped the notice of the Opposition and of the reporters. Even had the notice been quite clearly given Mr. Balfour was not absolved; for last session he promised a committee to deal with the Supplementary Estimates, but seems entirely to have forgotten his promise. With his usual courtesy Mr. Balfour gave way. At the same time the House never does any good to anyone by discussing the Supplementary Estimates under the several heads and Mr. Balfour's scheme is certainly the most "convenient". Still the House must observe its own laws. Mr. Redmond not for the first time won a considerable victory by his watchful leadership.

But for the Japanese treaty the Government would have lost ground seriously this week in the opinion of the country. The remount scandal and the unpleasant insinuations concerning the meat contracts are calculated to keep people uneasy: Mr. Balfour made that unhappy mistake on the supplementary votes; the confession on the changed view of the value of Wei-hai-wei was a direct confession of a mistake in the past; then there was Lord Cranborne's indiscretion; while the best part of the week has been spent in vain babblings over one small point in the laws of Procedure. But the Government is the luckiest of modern times. The Japan treaty has filled the public mind and all this accumulation of little failures has been slurred over.

We cannot pretend to feel regret at the death of Lord Dufferin, for there is no doubt that had he lived worse things would have befallen him. Neither are we of those who hold him comparatively blameless in the London and Globe business, as an honourable man duped by scoundrels. If Lord Dufferin had made any kind of attempt to understand what was going on, and had been baffled by the lies and tricks of Mr. Whitaker Wright, our judgment would have been

different. But Lord Dufferin made no effort to follow the business of the company of which he was chairman; and to draw a large salary for neglecting the duties of a trustee does not strike us as honourable. His death has removed the last excuse for not making his coadjutors responsible. None the less is such an end to such a career very tragic. Viceroy of Canada, Ambassador at S. Petersburg, and Viceroy of India, three of the most splendid posts in our public service were all filled by Lord Dufferin with conspicuous success. He was not so much an able man, in the sense of studying questions profoundly, as a tactful genial Irishman, full of social resource.

Lord Dufferin was remarkable for his physical resemblance to Lord Beaconsfield, who was very kind to him in his younger days. Dwelling on the memories of his youth, Lord Dufferin once remarked to us that he recollected going up to Disraeli in the lobby of the House of Commons and saying "Please, Mr. Disraeli, tell me a novel to read". Disraeli replied immediately, "When I want to read a novel I write one". Many many years afterwards Lord Beaconsfield appointed Lord Dufferin to the Embassy at S. Petersburg, and the Ambassador called in Downing Street to say good-bye to the Prime Minister. He found his former friend quite changed in manner: Lord Beaconsfield was stiff and pompous, and informed his astonished visitor that the Government would not summon him from S. Petersburg to vote in the House of Lords. By an ancient custom, now fallen into desuetude, the Government has the right to summon an ambassador, if a peer, from any capital in Europe to support them in the Lords, whatever his politics may be. Lord Dufferin was a Liberal, but he had forgotten the ancient right, and he never saw Lord Beaconsfield again.

The London and Globe inquiry was before the Winding-up Court again on Tuesday. Mr. Whitaker Wright was recalled and examined and the proceedings were adjourned after his evidence until 25 February in order that he might be re-examined. Besides Mr. Whitaker Wright Messrs. Malcolm and Anderson, the accountants of the Globe Company who had appealed against the order for their examination under the Winding-up Act 1890, submitted themselves to examination under the Act of 1862, and Mr. Leman a director of the Globe and the Standard Companies was recalled. He gave evidence as to the serious discrepancies between the accounts and the balance-sheet, and especially as to the discrepancy in November which amounted to £1,100,000; and he said that as to the loss of £600,000 on the Stock Exchange in the months preceding he was not aware of it, and had taken no trouble to ascertain it. The accountants gave evidence as to the transfers of shares from the Globe to the other Whitaker Wright companies not having been consented to by the brokers, and denied that Mr. Ford had as he had stated raised an objection as to these consents not having been obtained. Mr. Whitaker Wright gave evidence in support of the view that depreciations in the value of shares had been wiped off; and the inquiry was adjourned.

On Thursday the Council of Agriculture, which acts as an advisory body to the Irish Agricultural Department, passed a resolution unanimously expressing confidence in Mr. Horace Plunkett and a conviction that it is his duty to remain Vice-President of the department until at least the task of organising the work has been accomplished. This Council is one of the most popularly elected and representative bodies in the kingdom; its decision is very wise and of good omen for Ireland. There may or may not be some irregularity, legal or constitutional, in Mr. Plunkett still retaining the post though not having at the moment a seat in Parliament. The Council has swept aside all such peddling considerations and declared that Mr. Plunkett must remain. We hope very shortly to review Mr. Plunkett's work and the prospects of Ireland in relation thereto. Meanwhile we can say, without the least exaggeration, that his withdrawal would be a grievous set-back. He, called in late, is the

true physician who has "struck his finger on the place" where Ireland ails: to take the case out of his hands would be madness simply.

There may be a note of exaggeration about some who earnestly deplore the dwindling wheat-growing acreage of Great Britain, the while forgetful of the meat-producing uses to which converted arable land is put: and this side to the question is shown in an article on the food production of the country which we print to-day. But "superior" people and the Cobden Club really should know better than to try to make out that these are cries and alarms raised only by the half-educated. "Those who argue that England may safely depend upon a supply of foreign corn, if it grows none or an insufficient quantity of its own, forget that they are subjugating the necessities of life itself to the mere luxuries or comforts of society." These were Coleridge's words spoken something like seventy years ago when our population was less by many millions than to-day. We suppose that even Mr. Arthur Balfour's professor of political economy—that was a lovely saying of Mr. Balfour's!—would know that Coleridge was more than half educated.

After three years of fame the Epsom Urban Council is to step back into the obscurity from which it should never have emerged: Lord Rosebery has announced his retirement. Who will least regret it? There has been a certain inherent opposition for the last three years between the chairman and the members. The Epsom Urban Council was made for business, not notoriety; Lord Rosebery was made for notoriety not business. But it was Lord Rosebery who was converted by the local mind. Was not his last action to oppose a Bill for electric lighting on the score of economy? And who after this shall deny that those good people of Epsom are justified who point to the climax of Lord Rosebery's career: first chairman of the London County Council, next Prime Minister of Britain and last chairman of the Epsom Urban Council. As for the ex-Progressive's own opinion, he may yet come to think that it is more pleasant and useful to oppose progress in suburban Epsom than to dig with a spade in provincial Liverpool.

The Bank returns of Thursday exhibit the continuation of receipts on account of taxation, the public deposits having increased by £1,739,700, the depletion of the market to this extent being further reflected in the addition of £1,368,850 to other securities representing outside borrowings. Notes and gold have returned from the provinces, strengthening the coin and bullion by £525,250 and reducing the active note circulation by £225,300. The resultant of the various changes in the figures is an increase to the total reserve of £750,550 whilst the proportion is a $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. lower at 48·24 per cent. The Funds have not been a very active market during the past week, the probability of a further issue of Exchequer Bills or a new War Loan acting as a deterrent to buoyancy; Consols have reflected the general course, a slight shrinkage day by day having taken place. Colonial issues have been steady although closing rather easier, and the Foreign section shows some improvement, more especially in the Chinese and Japanese issues on the announcement of the new Treaty between ourselves and Japan.

Home Railways have been a firm market and prices have been fully maintained, the southern lines marking substantial advances. American Rails have not been active but most stocks are higher on balance; the market on this side however has done little beyond marking the parity of New York prices. The settlement in South African mining shares was completed satisfactorily and it is understood that a wholesome and necessary check has been given to certain weak operators who had commitments beyond their financial strength; the market closes somewhat dull in consequence of profit-taking and the absence of any specially favourable political news as to the position in South Africa. The remaining markets have been without interest beyond a slight hardening in the better class of West African shares. Consols 94 $\frac{1}{4}$. Bank rate 3 per cent. (6 February, 1902).

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE TREATY.

THE Anglo-Japanese agreement has taken the civilised world by surprise. This alone is no contemptible achievement in an age when State secrets have too often been little else but "secrets de Polichinelle". This to a large extent is owing to the fact that those who conduct our affairs are deplorably in the habit of "flying kites" in order to see in what direction the wind of popular favour may waft them. The secrecy which has enveloped this momentous diplomatic stroke is doubtless to be attributed to the narrow circle in which it has been evolved. It has at least demonstrated the blessings of an inner Cabinet and the superiority over the new diplomacy of the old. We are at last confronted with an event of supreme importance in international politics which has not been discounted beforehand by the comments of either an ignorant or an interested press. We can regard it with that equanimity which springs alone from the contemplation of the fait accompli. What you can neither alter nor avert is viewed from a different standpoint from that whence we survey the possible or even the probable.

Lord Lansdowne is then to be sincerely congratulated on the method of his action. In what light can we consider the agreement itself? Although the interests of the Powers concerned are defined for the purposes of this treaty as limited to China and Korea, it is not permissible to anyone, who takes stock of the position of this country in the world's politics, to doubt that its effects will be felt in every region to which our activity extends, that is to say throughout the globe. What it does for this country is to liberate us from all anxiety with regard to our interests in that vast sphere of the earth vaguely known as the "Far East". We have acquired the usufruct of one of the most powerful fleets existing, and of the ports and coaling stations of Japan. This alone renders almost laughable any suggestion that French or German intervention in conjunction with Russia would be a serious menace. It isolates Russia in the Pacific. It would also render a hundred times more dangerous an attempt to disturb the status quo in the Persian Gulf. M. Alcide Ebray, whose opinion on such matters is worthy of sincere respect, writing in no carping spirit, endeavours to demonstrate that England alone benefits by the arrangement. We confess ourselves quite unable to share this view. Japan has already seen the fruits of victory torn from her grasp by a European coalition. Such a catastrophe for her is not likely to occur again. The certainty that any interference with her would involve a conflict with England would be enough to prevent it. That cannot be set down as a slight or no gain to Japan. With regard to ourselves another possibility arises which we may set down as pure gain. If this country were to become engaged in war with any European Power from causes not Asiatic, the interests of England in the Far East would be henceforth either safe from attack or an attempt to injure them would almost certainly be followed by the appearance of our ally in the field. This is a far-reaching deduction which it is impossible not to draw from the premisses. Either of these Powers may "take such measures as may be indispensable in order to safeguard those interests". Now it is essentially a Japanese interest that English influence in China should not wane, to the detriment of herself and to the benefit of Russia or Germany. Therefore in the course of a war our adversary would either have to leave us unmolested in the Eastern Seas or draw down upon herself the highly inconvenient hostility of Japan. In such a contingency the appearance of Japan on the scene would infallibly mean the disappearance of our enemies, whoever they might be, from those regions. Whether the gain be greater upon our side or on that of our ally it seems invidious to inquire, for it entirely depends upon the trend of events, but it is no light advantage for Japan that she should feel entirely safeguarded on the side of Korea. Let any Englishman consider what it would mean to this country if the occupation of Holland by Germany were a possibility of the near future, that the menace of such a contingency or the alternative of a gigantic war

had been hanging over us, and we suddenly found ourselves assured of the assistance of the French fleet to avert it; and we may to some extent measure the satisfaction which must be entertained by all thinking Japanese at this agreement. As for ourselves, we are now at liberty to go on our way without taking too anxious thought for a vast quarter of the world where our interests are vital indeed to ourselves but even more deeply so to our ally.

We have endeavoured to point out what we believe may be actually involved for us in the accomplishment of this treaty. It is hardly less necessary to consider the probable effect it may have on other Powers. We have already heard in a limited degree the comments of thinking Frenchmen. In one point they agree and that is one which in its expression cannot but be highly flattering to Englishmen. Two of the most sagacious French publicists strike a similar note of surprise, that England, with all that she has on her hands in South Africa, is yet able to safeguard her interests in other parts of the world. This only emphasises, what we have always endeavoured to demonstrate, that the only safe policy for England is a bold one, that neither we nor our rivals have ever rightly gauged the enormous latent strength, the vast possibilities for attack and defence which the British empire has at its command. As a corollary to this proposition we may point out that, if our Government has done well this year, it would have done the same thing a great deal better five years ago. We should in that case have avoided the wretched blunders connected with Port Arthur and Wei-hai-Wei, we should not have alternately threatened and backed down to Russia, we should have been spared the galling disillusion of our German Agreement and we should have kept in check the disloyal paltering of the United States. We may also not improbably conjecture that, from the point of view of the general interests of humanity, such an agreement made two or three years, since would have prevented much of the Boxer trouble, which was made possible in the first instance and certain in the last only by the jealousies of all the Powers and the hesitation of one, ourselves. Apart from journalists who always see in any stroke of English policy some Macchiavellian meaning, informed French opinion will be, we believe, on the whole rather pleased than otherwise, though we are by no means anticipating a unanimous chorus of approval. As a matter of fact France has little to gain from any conflict with us in the Far East, and she now has an excellent excuse for declining to participate in any such enterprises for the benefit of her ally. She now knows that if she be dragged into any aggressive action for the benefit of Russia, she has to face the certainty of the almost immediate extinction of her influence in Siam and her disappearance from Cochin China and Tongking. M. Delcassé will not be sorry to have his hands strengthened in the maintenance of peace. The Government of Russia will have secured the very moderate satisfaction which follows upon the knowledge that a difficult position is at all events clearly defined, and from the certainty that English statesmen have at last made up their minds and that, if within the next five years they feel any disposition to change theirs, they will be bound down to a certain course of action. We do not feel at all sure that a frank expression of our determination in one sphere may not lead to an easier adjustment of some differences in others.

As to Germany's attitude we have little ground to trouble ourselves, for we have little reason to consider her feelings. We cannot be expected to enjoy a game in which we have been used as a pawn to be sacrificed to please Russia, and the trend of such an arrangement as this is at all events to keep Germany reasonable in the Far East where her action hitherto has been, if not hostile, at all events not especially friendly. As to the United States, if the assurances of their statesmen were worth much consideration, they would long ago have been a party to this, or a similar arrangement, but, while professing a like policy to our own and no doubt in their own interest desiring free ports, they have preferred to keep them free by the exertions of others. Their

action throughout has been contemptible. They have as often as not played into the hands of Russia well knowing that we were all the time safeguarding their commercial interests. America, who has deserved it least, will benefit commercially by our diplomatic success more than any other Power, though Anglophobe journals in the States clearly indicate that they recognise in it an increase of strength to England and therefore resent it.

On the whole, it is always difficult to judge completely at its inception of the effect of any agreement between two Powers, but at present it appears that we stand to gain much more than we can possibly lose. It is said that we make ourselves responsible for the foreign policy of Japan, but the foreign policy of Japan has been guided hitherto by singular sagacity and compares not unfavourably with our own. "Alliances" said Bismarck "should be the fruit of common interests and purposes" and, on the Bismarckian principle, this alliance is amply justified.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN has, we think, reached the meridian of his career. The City of London received the Colonial Secretary on Thursday with an enthusiasm and ceremony that left nothing for the most ambitious heart to desire. The traffic in the main thoroughfares was stopped for the greater part of the day to allow of the triumphal passage of the statesman whom his countrymen delight to honour, a compliment which the police seldom pay to any but Royal personages. It is possible that if the Conservatives are again returned to office at the next general election, Mr. Chamberlain may be Prime Minister. But Mr. Chamberlain will then be verging upon his seventieth year, and, though he is extraordinarily young for his age, it is not in the course of nature that he should surpass, or even equal, his present achievements. At this moment Mr. Chamberlain is not only the most popular man in England: he is the most powerful statesman in Europe. The fascination, half fearful half friendly, which his name exercises over the average foreigner is almost incredible. A serious man of business from a neighbouring country asked a member of Parliament, who pointed out the Colonial Secretary in the House of Commons, whether "Lord Chamberlain" did not intend to overthrow the present dynasty, and make himself the first President of a British Republic. A good deal of Mr. Chamberlain's popularity at this hour is doubtless due to the insensate jealousy and vulgar insolence of German politicians and pressmen. The Colonial Secretary stands for Great Britain versus Germany, and in that attitude his countrymen will back him to any lengths. Some of Mr. Chamberlain's power and success is attributable to the weakness of the men by whom he is surrounded. "Troy in our weakness stands, not in her strength." Some of the Unionist leaders are, it has to be said, superannuated: some are, to borrow Pope's phrase, "for action too refined": while others are the mere nonentities that form the lumber of every Cabinet. But when we have gone through our sum, and made every allowance for the accidental aid of circumstances, there remains one of the most striking careers in our political history, whose success is well worth analysing.

How few the years seem since Mr. Chamberlain was the terror and detestation alike of Whigs and Conservatives! In the general election of 1885 all the efforts of the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Goschen, and Sir Henry James, were directed to counteracting the influence and exposing the errors of Mr. Chamberlain. To the Tories the doctrine of ransom was like a red rag to a bull. Perhaps Mr. Gladstone, always a Whig at heart, was infected insensibly with a prejudice against "the pinchbeck Robespierre", as Lord Randolph Churchill dubbed this terrible Radical mayor. Anyway Mr. Gladstone left Mr. Chamberlain out of his councils in framing the Home Rule Bill, an omission which had the most momentous result. The Liberal party was smashed, and Mr. Chamberlain, after a few years

of "splendid isolation", joined the Tories. Mr. Chamberlain has never recanted any of the extreme Radical theories of his salad days. Some of them of course have been eagerly snatched by the Tories, for the paradoxes of one generation are the platitudes of the next. The rest, we may imagine, have been put away with those love-letters which are not read to the Cabinet. Still, it is sufficiently remarkable that a statesman, who is a dissenter and a disestablisher, and who propounded the principle that hereditary and accumulated wealth should pay tribute to the proletariat, rules with despotic rigour the party that fondly imagines itself the depositary of the tradition of Bolingbroke and Burke. The Constitutional Club has recently approached Mr. Chamberlain with oriental obeisances, and humbly begged to be allowed to hang his portrait on its wall under the same roof with the effigy of Lord Beaconsfield. There is more in the juxtaposition than perhaps the members of the Constitutional Club perceive. For there is a striking similarity in certain points between the careers of the two men. Both men marched to "power's meridian height" over mountains of prejudice and dislike. Both men were marked from the start as outsiders, not by the fact that they did not belong to the aristocracy, for the aristocracy has often had to send outside for a manager or spokesman, but by the fact that they had not been to either public school or university. Pitt, Canning, Peel, and Gladstone were not patricians; but Pitt had been at Eton and Christchurch; Canning and Gladstone at Eton and Christchurch; Peel at Harrow and Christchurch. No one who knows the world will underrate the disadvantage of having been educated in a different manner from your competitors, of not having been taught in early life their language and manners. Mr. Chamberlain, like Disraeli, breathed the atmosphere in youth of a small religious sect, a narrowing influence which it requires no small amount of originality to counteract. Disraeli, like Mr. Chamberlain, triumphed over all obstacles, and won power and popularity by the fearless advocacy of broad Imperial principles. But there all likeness between the pair ceases. Disraeli was a man of letters; Mr. Chamberlain is a man of business. Disraeli wrote a novel at the age of twenty-one which attracted attention, and he was almost immediately launched by Lady Blessington in a certain London world of dandies, artists, and wits. Mr. Chamberlain was born in Camberwell, and his upbringing was in the town of Birmingham. Yet there is nothing provincial about his political ideas. Indeed, it is one of his notes of originality and force that in a country where the training of our statesmen is purely rhetorical, and where a critical and inquisitive press is for ever sitting in judgment, Mr. Chamberlain should be unquestionably the most powerful speaker of the day without literature, and consequently without that taste which only acquaintance with the best models can confer. Mr. Chamberlain's literary taste is deplorable. Quotations from Dickens and bad poets and the reminiscence, upon a certain solemn occasion, of Bright's fondness for cats are unmistakeable evidence of that. To the subtle shades of language the Colonial Secretary is unfortunately colour-blind: but he is a master of clear and cogent statement, perhaps for that reason. If we have dwelt on Mr. Chamberlain's defects it is only to heighten by contrast the effect of his great qualities, for no one but a genius could have overcome these defects. When everybody else was groping after what they are pleased to call principles, and prating about the old Conservatism and the new, or the difference between Radicalism and Liberal Unionism, Mr. Chamberlain discerned some years ago the true trend of events. He saw it in the expansion and defence of the Empire, and the knitting together of the Colonies, too long neglected, with the Metropolis. In 1895 Mr. Chamberlain had the choice of almost any office he pleased in the new Cabinet. Most people thought he would select one of the great spending departments, the War Office or the Admiralty, and, had he done so, we should undoubtedly have been spared some recent scandals. Others thought that he would prefer to utilise his commercial experience at the Board of Trade. With unerring instinct Mr. Chamberlain fixed upon the Colonial Office as the

department with the greatest and most immediate possibilities. Events have proved his penetration; for it is no hyperbole to say that Mr. Chamberlain has revolutionised the relations between the mother country and her dependencies. The Colonial Secretary has breathed a new spirit into those young and gallant communities beyond the seas: he has elevated them to a consciousness, hitherto dormant, of their high destiny; he has pointed out to them their precise place and function in the great scheme of empire. In short, Mr. Chamberlain has "read its history in the nation's eyes"; and, if that be not genius, we know not the meaning of the word.

RAILWAYS AND PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL.

IN the last session of Parliament a Private Bill promoted by the London and North-Western Railway Company was rejected, because it was shown that the common form clauses inserted in such Bills had not proved sufficient to carry out the intentions of Parliament in regard to the re-housing of persons dispossessed by new railway works. The speeches made on that occasion and the division showed that a strong feeling, not confined to either side of the House, had sprung up against the manoeuvres of railway companies, which evade in detail the legislation intended to protect the public against the monopoly conferred on them by the State not so much voluntarily as by compulsion of circumstances. As a result of these speeches and the division it was announced on behalf of the Government that a Select Committee would be appointed to inquire, in regard to the common form clauses relating to housing, what alterations would be required to ensure that the provisions of the law should be carried out. Since then nothing further has been done by way of investigating the clauses: if a committee has been appointed it has not yet met, or at least has not made any report on the subject. The time is now near when Private Bills come before the committees of the two Houses, and they will come under the old unamended Standing Orders, which were to be overhauled so far at least as the housing clauses are concerned. It might happen, therefore, that, when the London and North-Western Bill came before the committee again the skilled agents and counsel and skilled witnesses would again succeed in carrying their Bill with its unaltered common form clauses through committee, and, with the powerful railway interest behind them in the House of Commons, succeed also in carrying through what they failed to effect last year. But the Railway Association, and the band of directors in the House, with the shareholders who follow their directions like sheep, and the other members of Parliament who are subjected to a canvass to which ignorance and a desire to be complaisant make them unsuspicious victims, may form a combination which will reverse last year's proceedings and turn the railways' defeat into a victory.

Perhaps in this particular case, attention having been so prominently directed to the matter, some one or other of the members who formed the opposition last year may serve on the committee and guide its deliberations, so that sufficient safe-guarding provisions may be inserted in the Bill. But this is a piece of fortune which cannot always or often be looked for. Usually all or most of the effective expert knowledge is on the side of the railway company. To leave a committee consisting of ordinary members of Parliament to control what is really a judicial inquiry, in many cases, is like leaving a jury to the tender mercies of counsel without the guidance of a judge. Where the clash of interests comes in between one company and another each party brings out his own case clearly enough of course; but in regard to the Standing Orders and parliamentary procedure, whether before committees or in the House, all the companies are on the same side; and they support each other in maintaining and obtaining whatever may be of advantage to one, because ultimately it will be found to be to the advantage of them all. But this is true not only of railway companies. The

remark applies to all the great corporate interests—the water companies, the gas companies, the electric light companies, the tramway companies. In the House itself they can bring about powerful combinations to secure the passage of the scheme of one on the understanding that the scheme of another shall in turn be supported. For this combination of interests the support of the disinterested and indifferent member of Parliament may always be obtained by a judicious canvass.

In committees the ignorance of the ordinary member of the subjects on which he votes is more apparent than in the Chamber. Almost all industrial and social legislation is put into the form of Bills complicated with a mass of technical detail. This detail finds its way there in order that principles may be hidden and discussion shortened, because members do not understand what it is all about, and are afraid of showing their ignorance by attempting to deal with it. In committee this feature appears in an exaggerated degree, and ordinary members are incapable of dealing with matters that come before them with sufficient skill and knowledge to provide for the security of the public interests as they are intended to be provided for by general legislation. The committee does not, because it does not know how, carry into effect the law which has to be worked out in practice. Suggestions have been made that the committees of the House should more nearly approach than they do the character of expert judicial tribunals. Something in this way has been done by the devolution of certain committee work to a local tribunal in Scotland, but there has been too little experience as yet of this new system to say whether, in respect to what we are speaking of, it is any improvement on the old. The difficulties of altering the present constitution of the committees at Westminster are obvious, but it is quite certain that if we had to devise a system to meet present-day requirements it would be quite different from that actually existing. The committees are an old piece of machinery, remnants of ancient days that have passed away, and they have been put to uses under the pressure of modern changes which they are quite unfit to fulfil. To transact the Private Bill legislation of the country with the old Parliamentary committees of the age of Anne or even the third George is an evident anachronism. We might as well attempt to do the carrying trade of the country by means of the canals as to transact Parliamentary committee business as it is transacted at present. The Standing Orders and forms are products of the new time in a sense, but only in the sense that the first steam engine was also a product of the new time. Steam engines have been considerably revised in the interval. It is well known how indifferent, in the early days of the new industries, legislation was to the social and moral aspects of our extending commerce and manufactures. The same moral indifference is manifest in the body of rules which sprang up and grew in the committee rooms under the pressure of the great railway and other monopolist undertakings. It is time they were revised in the light of our modern conscience in these matters. There is no branch of Parliamentary procedure which would better repay time and trouble spent on such revision, and the country might thereby obtain a far more effective control than it has at present over the interests which possess undue predominance in Parliament.

THE GORE CASE AND CONFIRMATION.

SO far as the King's Bench judgment of Monday only affects the Church Association and the brawlers of Bow Church, we welcome it. For an Association which has exposed the mysteries of the Faith on the hustings, to let, hinder, and restrain (for its own prejudices) the prerogative of Cæsar was an impertinence deservedly mulcted in costs. One reputation moreover the proceedings have enhanced. The readiness with which Dr. Gore offered to meet any charge which could be fairly brought against him, and his refusal to take any step which might baulk proceedings, are salutary lessons to the Erastianism of the

full-bottomed wigs and scarlet gowns of our moribund Doctors' Commons, and the prelacy that believes in its infallibility.

For the rest the judgments (regrettable as for some reasons we think them) are almost a natural result of the facts of the case and the temper of the age. No one can for a moment suspect the capacity, honesty, learning, or churchmanship of the Lord Chief Justice. Yet it is significant that he almost glories in the Erastianism that filled with horror another great churchman and lawyer, the Mr. Justice Coleridge of the Hampden case. The true reason we fancy why the Lord Chief Justice's mind was unreceptive of the arguments that convinced Mr. Justice Coleridge was that the danger of grossly improper appointments to the Episcopal Bench, which was real enough to our grandfathers and fathers, seems ludicrous to us whose memory only extends to the episcopal appointments of the later Victorian administrations. The tribute which the Lord Chief Justice paid to the care shown by the Crown and its advisers in our time in the selection of persons to fill the high office of bishop was deserved. But when he refers us to the history of the last one hundred and fifty years for evidence of similar consideration on the part of Cæsar, we feel strongly that his Lordship would be none the worse for a little talk with a certain old Tory, who was once upon a time Dean of S. Patrick's. Less than a hundred and fifty years ago certain of those highwaymen, who murdered the pure and pious prelates appointed to Irish bishoprics by that Erastian saint Sir Robert Walpole, and disguised in their victims' robes imposed themselves on Keltic simplicity, were still holding their revels in the episcopal palaces of the "most distressful country".

Note that there was no election by the chapter, or confirmation in Ireland. Our chief objection to the present judgment is that it tends to strip our ancient bishoprics of the canonical character that even the laws of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth seemed to leave to them, and to revive an ancient abuse of which we thought that a recent Act of Parliament had nearly rid us. At Canon Law every advowson in lay hands whether of a bishopric or of a rectory is in the words of the lawyers "presentative", that is to say, the patron may present his nominee to the bishop or metropolitan for institution into his living or see, but the bishop or metropolitan may refuse institution for good cause shown. So far as ordinary patrons go this is still the law, and a bishop may refuse to admit a presentee on any ground on which an incumbent can be deprived, and it was not so long since a bishop successfully refused to institute a clergyman simply on the grounds of his ritualistic views and practices. The notion of a trial for heresy except in a formal Court no doubt seems horrible to the King's Bench. The risk is run by every presentee of a lay patron in the land. Between bishoprics and other ecclesiastical benefices, the Canon Law drew only this distinction, that the confirmation of a bishop (which as King Charles I. judges showed, exactly corresponds to the institution and induction of a rector) was a more solemn and regular piece of work. Here not merely was the presentee examined by his ecclesiastical superior; a solemn Court was held and objectors from all sides were invited to give evidence to his character and orthodoxy subject to severe penalties, if they failed to make good their "exceptions". This judicial inquiry as the Lord Chief Justice admitted dates from that best antiquity, to which our old divines once so boldly appealed. It certainly flourished in England in the thirteenth century and the notion of judges, who seem never to have heard of Professor Maitland's book on the Canon Law, that the portion of the *Jus Commune* regulating it was never received in the Courts Christian of Merry England, is enough to make old Lyndwood's ghost haunt the King's Bench Division for ever and a day. True in the fourteenth century the Pope wrested this right from our Metropolitans; but confirmation still remained a judicial process. Yet the King's Bench asks us to believe that when Bishop Gardiner read Henry VIII.'s Act and saw therein the words to "confirm the said election", he would have drawn the conclusion that the Act could in any circumstances have forced him to confirm the election of a heretic, and that, too, when the forms of confirmation drawn up under

his own and King Henry's eye formally cited opposers. Of course there are certain difficulties in the way of what we must call this common-sense construction of the statute; not that we lay great stress on the Præmunire threat and the time limit; because we think with Selden that these must be read subject to all reasonable excuses. The difficult point is the power which the Act gives to the Crown, in the event of the chapter electing a person other than the one named in the letters missive, to designate a candidate for the see, in which case there is no confirmation. This however simply means that in a particular set of circumstances the king may change a presentative advowson into a donative. Now a donative, namely, a living whereunto the patron may induct a clerk without the bishop's sanction, was nothing but a barbarous and un-Christian English abuse against which our Courts have honourably fought for centuries, and which the legislature finally ended so far as parochial benefices go in the year 1898. For the Courts to struggle to turn the presentative advowsons of the Crown in bishoprics into donatives is not merely a reactionary step; it is to give to the sovereign rights of which the legislature has rightly deprived the subject. Surely if ever there was an Act which called for a strict construction it was bluff Hal's Magna Carta of tyranny. Surely if ever there was a mediæval abuse to which short shrift should have been given it was a donative, whether episcopal, or parochial. Whether a higher Court may yet hold the State to the terms of the contract of S. Anselm and Beauclerk we will not speculate. We trust that if the question comes before the Convocations the clergy will remember that a Sir Robert Walpole or a Sir William Harcourt may yet have the disposal of our sees, and that they will be no parties to the abandonment of the last vestige of an ancient freedom. Rather let them agitate until Church and State will put episcopal confirmations on such lines, as will allow the like objections to a Bishop elect to be judicially considered as would if proved justify the episcopal rejection of the presentee of a private patron, and such objections only. For if this safeguard is not to be ours—the prospects alike of Liberationism and Roman Catholicism will be bright, when a new prime minister arises who knows not Gladstone nor Salisbury.

IMPORTED AND HOME-GROWN FOOD SUPPLY.

WHAT are the facts at the present time with regard to our net annual supplies of such fundamental food-stuffs as grain, meat and milk, to say nothing of sugar, eggs, fish, poultry, rabbits and other provisions? Of wheat, including wheat flour as grain, we have imported on the average of the past three years 98,257,000 cwts. Of meat, live and dead, the imports have amounted to 19,880,000 cwts., this figure including 7,059,000 cwts. of beef, 4,188,000 cwts. of mutton, and 8,598,740 cwts. of pork, bacon and hams. Of milk products, we have imported: 3,429,000 cwts. of butter, 2,494,000 cwts. of cheese, and 511,000 cwts. of condensed milk; totals which, when allowance is also made for the milk used in the manufacture of 932,000 cwts. of imported margarine, would represent a total yearly entry at our ports of about 1,385 million gallons of raw milk.

The next point is what has been the contribution from the home-agriculture of these articles. In the case of home-grown grain we propose to take the average production of the triennium 1898-1900, as the yield of the crop is consumed for the most part in the year succeeding the harvest. On this basis, the average annual supply of wheat available for consumption in the past three years from the cornfields of the British Isles is estimated, allowing for seed, at 61,419,000 bushels, or 32,903,000 cwts. Our flocks and herds in the same period are calculated to have furnished us yearly with 15,300,000 cwts. of beef, 7,800,000 cwts. of mutton, 4,689,000 cwts. of pork, bacon and hams, and 1,696,800,000 gallons of milk. These estimates combined with the imports of the same articles give the following totals for the supplies of wheat, meat and

milk, available for consumption by the population in twelve months—

	Home products.	Net imports.	Total supply.	Supply per head the population.		
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	Home.	Imported.	Total.
Wheat ..	32,903,000	98,257,000	131,160,000	88	262	350
Meat ..	27,780,000	19,850,000	47,660,000	74	53	127
Milk ..	1,696,800,000	1,384,605,000	3,081,405,000	40	33	73

These results show that we produce only 25 per cent. of our yearly requirements of wheat, while the apparent home provision of meat represents about 58 per cent., and of milk about 55 per cent., of the annual consumption. We have purposely employed the expression *apparent* in the case of meat and milk, because it is clear that the agriculture of this country does actually produce the quantities of meat and milk shown by the above figures, inasmuch as the home-bred live stock is fed to a considerable extent on feeding-stuffs grown abroad. Consequently, to appreciate more closely in what proportion the soil of the United Kingdom contributes to the supplies of grain, meat and milk required by the inhabitants, or, rather let us say, to ascertain more approximately what is the measure of its deficiency in this respect, it is necessary to take into account the immense consignments to our shores of corn, other than wheat, and of certain other feeding-stuffs. Of these the principal are maize, barley, oats, beans, pease, rye, oil cakes, oil seeds and hay; there is also an annual large importation of rice, and other farinaceous substances, but these may be omitted from consideration. In dealing with the first six of these articles we do not propose to make any reservations for the proportions in which some of them are utilised for feeding horses and poultry. Horses are to a large extent necessary agents in the production and distribution of food, and poultry enter into our dietary at some stage of their existence. Certain quantities of foreign barley and maize are utilised in breweries and distilleries, but these may also be properly included in our estimate as their products are for human consumption. We intend, therefore, to regard the whole of these imports as part of the food supply of the country, and we have little hesitation in doing so since the quantities employed in other directions are more than set off by the imports of rice and other farinaceous substances. Treated in this way, the average yearly net importation of feeding-grains, excluding wheat, has amounted in the past three years to 101,623,000 cwts. The aggregate supply from home and foreign sources of these food-stuffs, which are utilised mainly for conversion into meat and milk, are shown below:—

	Home produce, less seed.	Imported.	Total.	Supply per head of the population.		
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	Home.	Imported.	Total.
Barley, Oats, Beans, Pease, and Rye	90,916,000	43,956,000	134,852,000	243	117	360
Maize.. ..	—	57,687,000	57,687,000	—	154	154
	90,916,000	101,623,000	192,539,000	243	271	514

The home contribution of fodder-grains constitutes therefore about 47 per cent. of our annual requirements. The only other food-stuffs remaining for consideration are oil cakes, including oil seeds converted into cake and meal, and hay; of these, the average annual importation may be taken at 12,000,000 cwts. and 2,400,000 cwts. respectively.

Summarising the figures arrived at we find that our total yearly imports of wheat, meat, milk and feeding stuffs have been as follows:—wheat 98,257,000 cwts.; meat 19,850,000 cwts.; milk in all forms (except fresh milk and cream) 125,873,000 cwts.; feeding grains other than wheat 101,623,000 cwts.; oil-cake 12,000,000 cwts.; and hay 2,400,000 cwts. It would be interesting if some common denominator could be found by which the volume of these different forms of sea-borne food could be presented in terms of grain. A rough calculation of this kind for the several commodities enumerated above, viz. for wheat, meat, milk, and feeding stuffs, indicates that the aggregate imported supplies were equivalent to over 450 million cwts. of grain. A more exact standard may perhaps be arrived at by estimating the area which would be required to produce these imported articles if they could be grown in the United Kingdom. In an estimate of this kind which came

under our notice not long ago, the acreage necessary to grow a year's imports of these products, excluding pork, was put at approximately 23,000,000 acres; at the present time, however, we think that it would not be an exaggeration to take it at 25,000,000 acres as a minimum.

It is, of course, impossible to add anything approaching 25,000,000 acres to the cultivated area, and it is clear that no improvements of our methods of farming would enable us to feed ourselves from the area of land available for cultivation within the kingdom. As regards grain, at present, as we have seen, the wheat crop only furnishes enough of this cereal to feed the population for thirteen weeks; while the home production of other grains represents the quantity consumed in about twenty-five weeks. Could these proportions be increased by any alteration of the present system of tillage? A great feature of the agriculture of the country for a number of years has been the conversion of arable land to grass. A change of this character involves a diminution of productive power, though it is possible to exaggerate this diminution. For example, in the years 1881-85, when the average price of wheat ranged from 33s. to 45s. per quarter, and barley and oats exceeded 30s. and 20s. respectively, the ploughed land in Great Britain was one million and a half acres more extensive than now and there were, at that time, a million more acres under wheat; but there were then 400,000 more acres of fallows, and the land from which the plough has been withdrawn since those days now helps to maintain about 600,000 more cattle and over a million more sheep than were to be found in the herds and flocks of twenty years ago. So that while the recovery of the lost million acres of wheat would result in an addition of a few weeks' supply to the present home-grown total of this cereal—which in case of war and the cutting off of our supplies from, say, America, might simply mean salvation for us—it must also be accompanied by a displacement of grass-fed meat and milk such as would in peace time reduce the advantage to a margin the exact appreciation of which would become a statistical exercise of some nicety. Whether the needs of the population of the mother country in respect to food can be met by the resources of the Empire is a question we propose to discuss in our next issue.

SKATERS ON RINK AND DIKE.

THOSE social philosophers who are fond of asserting that national manners are made by climate and geographical conditions have yet to explain English eminence in skating. The first book on the subject was written by an Englishman—or Welshman—Lieutenant R. Jones in 1770 and for very many years the speed-skaters from the Fens were the best in the world. It is hard to account for: artificial rinks are new and long spells of frost have always been rare, in spite of the popular fallacy concerning old-fashioned weather. The accident of want of space may have had something to do with English zeal for figure-skating and to-day London is better equipped with ice-rinks than any town in Europe. But it is speed-skating that has the venerable past. Figure-skating, if we look at it without present prejudice, is after all an artificial art. It originated, possibly, in the invention of an ingenious skater of the Middle Ages who affixed to a wooden sole the jawbone of a sheep. Hence the perfection of the curved blade and the ultimate fame of Lieutenant R. Jones who is known in history as the "inventor of the 3". The artificiality was brought out in effective contrast by the English competitions on Wednesday and the championship of the world on Thursday. Our National Skating Association demands figures of a considerable size and a "graceful rigidity" of bearing. The Continental skater wins his place by his skill in continuous figures on one leg and maintains his continuity of pace by acrobatic energy with what the skating-books call the "unemployed leg". Such men as Grenander or Satchow achieve feats that seem to belie the laws of motion and equilibrium; but as it seems to us combined figure-skating, which is an English invention, is altogether on a higher plane.

Every game of which skilful combination is the essence is on that account superior; and to be one of a team ever doubles the delight of individual skill. Perhaps for this reason the speed-skaters have always given up much time to bandy and ice-games. Such games were played in a very remote past, possibly in the fourteenth century; and in this case bandy or ice-hockey is the one game which has a patron saint. S. Liedwi, who ever since has been accepted as the skater's saint, had a very nasty fall in the year 1398 and the accident is recorded in a delightful old woodcut of the next century. She had been advised to "skait" for the sake of health, and though the advice was not successful in her case—her broken rib never healed—many of her later votaries found what she lost. But she knew nothing of figure-skating.

There is only one part of England, and that the least known, in which distance-skating and ice-games can be seen as native amusements. In the Fens of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire you may travel forty miles or more through unrepeatable scenes, and in the land of "dikes" and "drowes" which have succeeded to the moors and marshes every man, woman and child takes to the ice by hereditary instinct. Many of the families are descended from the Dutch engineers who came over to drain the country and take from it its native wildness. In those days it was famous for its eels "so plenty and eke so good" and then, we are told, it was "facile to snare the crane, the heron, the wild duck, teal and the eccentric and most savoury snipe, the swallowkite, the swarth raven, the hoary vulture, the swift eagle, the greedy goshawk and that grey beast, the wolf of the weald". The list of birds gives a glory even to the snare; but in place of the glorious sport which they destroyed there was soon left only Kolv, the old game of the Hollanders. The game is the first form of golf but, so far as records tell, it bore a nearer resemblance to hockey. The curious old sticks which survive are exactly like a certain form of beetle used in the country, in which the staff enters the head near the middle and at a very obtuse angle. The head itself is thick and heavy in the heel and tapers quickly down to the toe. There is little doubt that the bandy sticks used in the Fens to-day descend as directly from the Dutch Kolv club as the present foot and a-half fen skate from the old bone "slides" of the eighth century. But in his skating expeditions as well as in his bandy matches the fenmen's liking for combination may be traced. It is their custom to set out for long skates in parties of eight or ten and they always move in the same formation. If you see such a team immediately from behind or in front it resembles an eccentric creature with one body and many legs. The whole ten will skate as closely together as possible and swing their stooping bodies with the precision of a University eight. The object is to minimise the air resistance and every third or fourth mile the last of the tail will take his place in the front to equalise the burden. There is a suggestive resemblance to the wild duck and geese of this very Fen country.

There were many wonderful feats seen at Niagara, but for the real game it is necessary to go to the Fens. In its way few countries at any time of the year have a more individual beauty: it is very different even from Holland, which is the north-eastern end of the same valley. But though the Fens are never as other places, the most typical seasons are harvest and frost-time. In autumn the great expanses of corn, invisibly broken by invisible dikes, stretch out of sight and you may watch the racing cloud shadows disappear into the distance or follow a puff of wind, as you would on the sea, by a course of golden ripples. In frost you may study the people; but when the sun breaks the mist of a winter morning the country has still something of the same likeness to a seascape. It is so flat that the low mist might very well be mistaken for a great sheet of water. Trees are almost unknown and the few that are left stand on a sort of crate of roots from which the supporting mud has long since sunk away. The single and pair skating for the world's championship in London this week was skilful enough and picturesque enough to fill even specialists and aesthetes with astonished admiration. Fen dikes, named with

geometrical precision from their absolute breadth—the “forty foot” and the “sixteen foot”—may not be thought comparable to the rather gorgeous rink at which the King was present on Thursday. But let no one decide the rival virtues of the natural and the artificial, till he has tried both. Too few are in a position to judge.

SUB DIO.*

“THE large air” is a classical phrase most boys have learnt at school: it has that in common with many other phrases; but unlike most of them it sticks. We find ourselves using it when we are not thinking at all of being classical, but are trying to express a feeling which is a fact. There is an air of the air about it; it catches the psychology of the open; it gathers up all the emotions of day and expanse. It seems naturally and inevitably to suggest largeness of heart, largeness of nature, everything that is sound, strong, clean. As a fresh breeze, it seems to carry off all pettiness, unwholesomeness, disease. The instinct of the open air is health. And by a natural transference we connote health of outdoor people and outdoor occupations. Health not in the belittled use of modern speech but in the fine old Bible sense of wholeness. What a comment on modern progress that the two words “health” and “wealth” should have contracted to but this one element in their significance, bodily soundness and material prosperity. Happily the word health has not decayed so deeply as wealth; wealth has probably sunk beyond hope of recovery, but health is still used at times in a thoroughly healthy sense. We think and speak of the field labourer, the farmer, the seafaring man, as healthy folk, and we mean much more than that their body is usually robust. Not that healthy in its fullest sense is a synonym for good. There are “goods”, in Aristotle’s phrase, which no one would think to express by the word healthy. It does not suggest spirituality, nor indeed refinement as such of any kind. What precisely it does mean it is not possible by any other word or words to say, for, if it were possible, the word could not have individuality: no good word is capable of definition in terms of its own language. Yet it is possible to collect its peculiar meaning from the actual uses of the word and from its environment. And no one who attempts this can help seeing that somehow the open air affects us curiously in the same way as the various phenomena we call healthy. Whether the connexion is but analogy, or whether a living unity underlies, as seems easier to believe, we are met by this connexion at every turn. “There is a breeziness about a real English boy.” How often do we hear that, and how absolutely true we feel it to be. There is something actually in common in the boy and in the breeze—it is the something we mean in calling both healthy. A boy, if he is a boy, is pre-eminently healthy, the youth less so, and the young man generally not so. “The Open-Air boy” is an association so natural, so necessary, that one only wonders that the phrase has not been minted and passed current long before. However, Mr. Hewett has stamped it now and it can never pass out of currency. Why could not one say the same of the open-air girl? That phrase should be as natural, as inevitable, but is not: is not because of false association, not of any natural antipathy. “The Open-air Boy”, as indeed is every good boys’ book, is a better book for girls than all the mawkish, miserable stories labelled “for girls” by the publishers put together. The idea that girls and boys should necessarily read different books is one of those worn-out feeblenesses that the salt of the earth amongst teachers, such as Mr. Hewett, must stamp upon.

Opening this book, one felt that it must stand or fall by the general feeling it left in the reader. When you have got to the end, do you feel that you have been in the open air, that you have been with boys? Do you

feel invigorated, happy, as does every healthy grown-up after an hour or two with young boys in the field? As one lives through the book, resenting at first an artificial childishness of dialect and desiring to teach the author (who of course knows less of boys than you) that children see through being talked down to and do not like it any more than working class folk, then gibbing at the slang, “thrown in of course for the sake of schoolboy popularity”, moralising over the philistinism, the murder and barbarity, one feels before getting to the end of the home walk at night after “sugaring for moths”, that we must give up this criticising (though it is criticism and not mere carping). It won’t do: this man has got the real thing; it is idle to meet him with minute points of that kind. And at the end of the book perhaps the feeling dominant of all is that this is the kind of man to whom we would send a boy if we could. He is a man because he has a boy’s heart; and none is really a man in whom the boy is wholly dead. Mr. Hewett knows boys, and all that is best in them; unlike Mr. Kipling who, as is proved in “Stalky & Co.”, knows only all that is worst in them. This is the view of Mr. Roosevelt, who with a courage quite splendid in a politician, especially in a President of the United States where the Kipling cult is even more rampant than over here, pronounces “Stalky & Co.” to be “a story which ought never to have been written, for there is hardly a single form of meanness which it does not seem to extol, or of school mismanagement which it does not seem to applaud”. Meanness in the open-air boy, on the other hand, is not conceivable. It is not tolerated even in dealing with the lowest animals.

Mr. Hewett finely assumes that his boys are gentlemen. (An assumption that never incapacitates him, or anyone else, for discovering and dealing with the exceptions who are not.) Appreciating the great fact, as also the great charm, about boys, their freedom from self-consciousness, he does not make them consider themselves but what is good outside themselves. Their religion is to love God not to hate themselves. Such is the only right, the only intelligible appeal to the young mind, to which self-criticism is unnatural and not properly possible. Boys are young animals after all, the most delightful animals in the world, and animals do not consider their relation to their environment. That is the keynote of the boy mind, its charm and limits. Why do we say of some men, often old men, that they have “boy’s eyes”? Are they not nearly always men with a certain unconscious innocence of nature; fresh, affectionate, spontaneous? We know very well that these “boy’s eyes” do not mean unusual depth of feeling, nor indeed any quality distinctively moral at all. Yet their quality has more charm because it is less subjective. It is this too which explains the terrible concreteness of boys, their undeniable barbarism, their savagery. Mr. Hewett knows all this and “walks” his boys accordingly. He knows that, in the midst of the sublimest scenery, it is some small thing on the ground or in the hedge that will get the boy’s attention. So he wisely insinuates scenery but never thrusts it down their throats. He never tries to reverse the engines of the boy mind. And he knows there is nothing so entirely consonant with the boy nature as the open air, earth, sea and all that has life and breath therein. Nature and the boy are kin; and the more they are left together and alone the better for both. Whole days alone on the sea cliffs, whole days in the woods, days on commons and in the fields, no boy or girl should grow up without them. And not only days, Mr. Hewett is right in claiming nights under the open sky as well. No man is educated that has not passed a whole summer night in the open air, and felt with the movements of Nature during the hours when the sleeper thinks she is still. “The Young Campaigner” is rightly the last chapter, for there is the soul of the open-air boy.

Only at the very end does Mr. Hewett’s boyhood break down; only when he has to part from his boys does he remember that he is himself on the highway of life. Then he looks at boyhood consciously, as no boy would. With a manly farewell, which not quite successfully tries to brush away all melancholy, he leaves us.

* “The Open-Air Boy.” By the Rev. G. M. A. Hewett. Young England Library. Edited by George A. B. Dewar. London: Allen. 1901. 6s.

Here is his "good-night" done into Latin elegiacs by a colleague at Winchester:—

Ah valeas igitur, valeas, exacta iuventas
 Si male dicta senem, si male facta prement,
 Si vivis nocui, si quidquam turpius egi,
 Tu veniam præsta, tu mihi parce, Deus.
 Quot puer aut oculis jucunda aut auribus hausi,
 Quot nox mira tulit, quot mihi læta dies,
 Quæ mare vel fluvii, quæ silvæ aut tesca dederunt
 Te, qui cuncta dabas, te, Deus, ore colo.
 Cara manus juvenum, nostræ dulcedinis heres,
 Me duce si possit dulcius ire viam,
 Naturamque sequi, velut ipse sequebar, amandam,
 Te freti peragant, Teque favente, diem.
 Aurea nascentes nubes nos ambit: eosdem
 Mox vergente die canior umbra tegit.
 Ter mihi felices, queis, accedente senecta,
 Sors magis ambigitur juverit utra virum.

ENGLISH MUSICIANS AND OPERA.

WE all want opera so much, we all talk about it so much, that the very subject is becoming a bore. I myself, a chief offender, am growing sick of it, sick of the endless talk and the little doing. Yet what can we do, we men whose business it is to write or talk and who have no opportunity of doing? The men who are in a position to do neither do nor talk; and it is only by incessant talking, by making ourselves something very like a public nuisance, that we others can force them to do anything. All those who are faint and weary under the deluge of talk that has spread o'er the land during the last few years may as well make up their minds that the talk will not cease until something is done. After all, nothing big, nothing that left a mark on the artistic world, was ever yet done without a great deal of talk beforehand. When Wordsworth and Coleridge went to work to revivify English poetry, depend upon it they had talked and written for years before. When Rossetti and his fellows founded their Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood they commenced with talk. Talk is an everlasting necessity of the human race—unfortunately—but nowhere is it of more importance than in regard to this matter of getting an opera which shall be our very own. To take a wrong step in musical matters in England is a most serious affair. Once lost, one can never tell when the true path will be refound, when we will be permitted to retake it. More than half a century ago we followed after Mendelssohn. So did Germany. But Germany quickly found out the mistake; whereas in England the bulk of our musicians are still following after Mendelssohn. If we now contrive by any means to get a permanent opera, and it falls into wrong hands, those of us who have laboured, perspired, talked for it may regret the day that we opened our mouths. Here is Lord Dysart with a scheme which the other day I called farcical; here is Mr. Galloway, a genuine musical enthusiast, with his plan—only vaguely known to me—which he proposes to bring before the House of Commons; and besides these there are others, not yet announced to the public, which I have heard talked about any time during the last eighteen months. Which is the safe one to adopt?

Lord Dysart's may be rejected without remorse, without a word of thanks. I am quite willing to lay down a ten-pound note towards a National English Opera on condition that the rest of the world provides the necessary nine million, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety pounds—that is to say the sum needed to make up the ten millions or so which have been probably expended on the Paris Opera. If I wrote to the "Times" and made so handsome an offer I should get lots of praise and glory; but I doubt whether after all I should have done much towards getting the opera. Mr. Galloway's idea is, so far as I know it, serious. But whether Mr. Galloway or someone else has ever so serious a scheme in hand, the point is, Under whose direction shall the thing be run? A few years ago Doctor Stanford and some of his friends came out with a brilliant proposal for starting a National Opera on £80,000. Nothing came of it. We all laughed at it; we all pointed out the inadequacy

of the sum. Why did we laugh? Surely any honest proposal, however wrong-headed, should not be laughed at. We laughed because we knew that an opera in the hands of these gentlemen from Kensington Gore would not be an artistic opera and would end in utter ruin, no matter how magnificently financed. If Mr. Galloway succeeds in achieving anything, if he gets us an official opera, may we take it that it will be left under the management of the official gang? Will it be controlled from Kensington or Tenterden Street? Will an opera by Sir Hubert Parry be succeeded by one from Sir Alexander Mackenzie and that in turn by one from Mr. Stanford? Heaven preserve us from such a trial! The oratorios of these gentlemen, whether serious or comic, whether intended for the stage or the concert room, worried us for years. The vogue of these works is happily past. We do not want to create a fine artistic machine merely to galvanise a ridiculous dead vogue. Yet that is what will surely happen if these gentlemen get possession of a National house built and subsidised by the Government. They have all had splendid opportunities in the concert room or the opera house. In the old days Sir Alexander Mackenzie got commissions from Carl Rosa and wrote operas which did not succeed; later Mr. Stanford had operas produced at Covent Garden and they did not succeed; all the trio have had cantatas, oratorios and what not sung at the provincial festivals and in London, and which of them has succeeded? There is not the slightest reason to believe that if they had our National Opera they would do anything good with it. And if they do not get possession of it, who will have it?

As soon as one begins seriously to consider this question of an opera one finds oneself confronted by a series of questions to none of which can an answer easily be found. If the musicians of a country in this "so-called" twentieth century cannot be trusted with the management of an opera, it seems rather hard to say who should be trusted with it. Certainly it cannot be left, for instance, to Sir Henry Irving or Mr. Wyndham or Mr. George Alexander: opera, or music-drama, whatever we may choose to call it, must be in the hands of musicians. And if in the hands of musicians then one cannot deny that these Mackenzies and the rest are at the head of the profession in England. They are like their brethren, only better. They know more; they can write better music in their own style; they have not lived all their lives in London or some cathedral town: if one has to pick amongst the English musicians to find the best one must pick them. And it follows, as night the day, that if ever we are to have the thing we all desire it is not by attacking the heads of the English professional men we shall get that thing, but by changing the quality of the professional men. I cannot say whether any such change is or is not wildly improbable. At present things look black enough. Only lately my old friends the Illiterate Society of Musicians held their yearly "bean-feast". They read papers; they dined; they gave a concert of their own music. And in the papers and the music—I cannot speak about the dinners—what a sight did we see, what things did we hear! I have given the Illiterates another chance by reading through some of the lectures which they so warmly approved, and there I find the same old thing, the same assumption that Messrs. Novello's anthems are the finest standard in music, the same pathetic belief that (in spite of his passing popularity) Richard Wagner was a composer to be disregarded by serious musicians, the same iron conviction that a musician's first business should be to get on in the world by shoving his pupils successfully through examinations. No notion, however vague, of the splendour and the beauty of life and of art has ever entered nor will ever enter these minds; they are dominated by the pedantic ideal—to make money and break no rules; one and all they are and, I fear, will always be greengrocers. Of opera they know nothing: when they look at the score of an opera they see an abortive oratorio; when any of them sit down to write an opera they try to write an oratorio. Of modern ideas—in literature, painting, drama and music—they know nothing; they are poor pianists, fiddlers or organists as the case may be; they are totally ignorant of modern musical technique. What

can one expect the fine flower of such a crowd to be! This is not a diatribe against a deserving class of tradesmen; here are no exaggerations, but a mere accurate description of these tradesmen. As tradesmen I am quite content that they should live, but can anyone expect anything in the shape of an artistic opera from them? Never in the world! To the young musicians of this country I would say, Come, let us make an end of all this; let us realise that music is an art, not a trade; let us refuse in any way to give our support, practical and moral, to the official musicians of this country; let us begin thus to prepare the ground for our genuine national opera. I say this, however, without the slightest fear that my voice will be heard.

In the meantime, if something is to be done with regard to opera, there is but one plan that will not lead to irretrievable disaster. Opera ought to be subsidised, in London by the Government, in the provinces by the municipalities. The machinery once set up, it ought to be let out to a private entrepreneur as on the Continent. That entrepreneur will have to live by pleasing the public. Thus, and thus alone, shall we be saved from seeing our opera tumble into the hands of the official gang who would ruin it. The public is never a quick judge, but it is a better judge than a set of men whose only idea is to write dry music and remain firmly placed in the high seats of authority. J. F. R.

THE LYRIC, THE GARRICK, AND THE O.U.D.S.

I AM grateful to Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley for having written "Mice and Men", and to Mr. Forbes Robertson for having produced it at the Lyric Theatre. It is a play which I have long awaited—so long awaited that I had begun to fear it never would be vouchsafed. For years I have been sneering at every sentimental play that has been produced, and thus (I fear) alienating the majority of you, my readers. Doubtless, you have come to regard me as a creature with a heart of stone, as a ruthless brute, quite impervious to any soft appeal, quite incapable of delight in the presentment of aught but what is grim and terrible. And I, all the while, have known my heart to be really an up-welling spring of the most limpid sentiment, undiscovered only because no dramatist had come by with a divining rod. All the while, I have been beset with an ardent, unsatisfied desire for the bread and butter, the buttercups and daisies, of drama—for fresh butter, nicely spread on new bread nicely cut, for field-flowers really a-growing and a-blowing. Waxen imitations of field-flowers, set under domes of dusty glass on mats of gaudy wool, hunks of stale bread supporting lumps of rancid butter—these things are not what I wanted, and these things are what I was always being put off with. At length, Mrs. Ryley has given me the things I did want, and with them the chance of disproving myself a monster. You who have misjudged me, behold me now dancing with all the grace of true joy among the real buttercups and daisies, and swallowing the good bread and butter like a hungry, healthy child.

The apocalypse will be the more startling and convincing for that the scheme of "Mice and Men" is not merely compact of sentiment and sentimentality, but is also compact of them in their most conventional forms. The middle-aged doctrinaire who was once crossed in love, but who has at length decided that it is his duty to marry and beget an heir—what playgoer does not know him? What playgoer does not know that he will, in a cold and calculating way, select from the lower class some healthy and very young girl who, after she has been educated for a certain number of years according to an ideal system, will be in a position to marry him and in due course supply him with a paragon worthy to carry on the traditions of his family? Who does not know that he will, after the due lapse of years, realise that he loves his intended bride madly, devotedly? Who does not know that, when at length he makes his proposal to her, he will make it so delicately that she will imagine that he is asking her to marry his scapegrace nephew—the young and joyous soldier, who is her ideal, even

as she is his? And who does not foresee the end—the middle-aged doctrinaire, cloaked and hatted, faltering slowly down the garden path, opening the wicket, and turning, ere he utterly effaces himself, an almost happy smile towards the house—the house that was to have been his and hers—from which are wafted the strains of "My love is like a red, red rose", sung as a duet by the two young people? This is a story that must have been exploited in a score of sentimental books and sentimental plays. In real life, of course, it would be impossible. Granting the premisses, one would find that the result would be exactly the opposite of that which is here evolved. Even though the girl might not (as she probably would) conceive a romantic love for her benefactor, it is quite certain that the man would ultimately abandon his cut-and-dried scheme of matrimony, finding that the few years' training, despite its superficial effects, had brought the girl not a whit nearer to him in spirit than in age. He would realise, if he still really wanted a bride at all, that he wanted a kind of bride very different from this one. If he had a scapegrace nephew who was in love with her, he would make a handsome settlement, and think himself very well rid of an encumbrance. But these objections to "Mice and Men" are made by me merely in cold blood: I had no glimmer of them during the play's procedure. I surrendered myself whole-heartedly, taking the play for all it was worth, smiling and sighing and brushing away tears with the best of them. Why? Because the costumes were of the eighteenth century, and so the challenge to reality was not so sharp? No. I vow that "Sweet and Twenty" in modern costume did not disgust me more, did not seem to me more disgustingly ridiculous, than any of those sentimental costume-plays which Mr. Martin Harvey has thrust on my notice. The reason why I was able to enjoy the sentiment and sentimentality of this play is simply that Mrs. Ryley has a genuine talent for sentimental comedy. Though her characters and their motives are conventional and unreal, she has imagination enough to believe in them, and so transuses that power into me. The Freeman Willses and Basil Hoods are so obviously insincere. They are so obviously faking up the emotion, piling falseness on falseness. They are so obviously making asses of themselves in order to make money. If they had any sense of humour they would not be capable of this deliberate process. But sense of humour has been denied them. It has not been denied to Mrs. Ryley. It prevents her from ever becoming maudlin in her sincerity, as they become in their insincerity. She gives us never that horrible, cloying stickiness of sentiment through which the Hoods and Willses have (presumably) enriched themselves. Her sentiment is always airy and wholesome. Moreover, she can write. What a relief, after that illiterate slush to which the Willses and Hoods have accustomed us, to find dialogue that is really like human speech, yet terser and more distinguished than human speech! Even by mere reason of its literary style, "Mice and Men" is delightful, and rare among plays. But the chief ingredient of its delightful rarity is that it is a fairy-story conceived in a sincere spirit—a fairy-story in which I can believe.

Mr. Forbes Robertson evidently believed in it, too. For in the production of it he has to efface and sacrifice himself almost as completely as does the hero whom he impersonates. The sacrifice is not made in vain. For through it we have that desired thing which has been withheld from us—a full revelation of Miss Gertrude Elliott's exquisite little genius for drawing tears and laughter. Anyone with a sense for acting must have realised, when Miss Elliott made her début in England, that here was a real artist, a something quite distinct from a mere real leading-lady. But hitherto we have known her worth only through the glimpses of it. Here is the full worth itself. Let no one miss this chance of appreciating it, and let no one cease to hope that the Peggy in this play will one day be the Perdita in another.

"Pilkerton's Peerage", Mr. Anthony Hope's new play at the Garrick Theatre, would have been better if it had been rather a serious study of the coronet-hunting millionaire than a slap dash satire of him. Let us have slap-dash satire, by all means; only, Mr. Hope

is not the man to do it really well, and he has, in his later books, proved himself to be very good at serious and minute delineation of character. In a slap-dash satirical play, which caricatures men and things, making them what they are not so that we may realise something of what they are, we demand a broadly amusing method of treatment. Mr. Hope cannot compass that. Pilkerton and the rest of the characters are duly exaggerated in outline, but they are not amusingly filled in. The filling-in is too reticent, too delicate, too realistic. The dialogue is witty in a minor key when it ought to be full of rollicking high-spirits. We want to be roaring with laughter, and therefore cannot even smile (as elsewhere we could) at the wit. Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw, as Pilkerton, intensifies our discomfort by taking his part in the grimmest earnest. Sir Henry Irving's Beckett was a trifle light as air in comparison with Mr. Robertshaw's Pilkerton, though the two creations have, superficially, many points in common. Mr. Edmund Maurice, as a Prime Minister, and Mr. Bouchier and Mr. Esmond as his secretaries, are more light hearted and accordingly more appropriate. Miss Eva Moore is not good as a frivolous woman of the world, nor is Mrs. Maesmore Morris good as a naïve daughter of the millionaire. Either would have been good in the other's part.

"The Two Gentlemen of Verona" is an ideal play for a company of amateurs: no one in the cast has a long part, and so no one can come saliently to grief; and everyone in the cast has scope in which may be made a nice little success. Therefore, the O. U. D. S. needs no excuse for having this year repeated the choice which it made but nine years ago. This year, undeniably, the greatest success was made by the anonymous impersonator of Crab—a Skye terrier which, in ease of deportment and in alert resourcefulness, could give points to any performing dog that ever was seen on the stage of the Palace Theatre. This triumph of the amateur over the professional seemed to hearten the human members of the cast. Perhaps because he, as Launce, was most nearly in touch with Crab, (or perhaps because my judgment is affected by his title) the second prize must be awarded to Lord Tiverton (New College). Mr. R. K. Cox (Hertford) was excellent as Speed. As the "Two Gentlemen" Mr. J. F. G. Gilliat (University) and Mr. E. Kenworthy-Browne (Balliol) contrived to seem as though they were hardly at all ashamed of having to seem romantic. Any student of undergraduates as actors will admit that this was an almost unparalleled feat. MAX.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT AND MUTUAL.

IN these articles we have repeatedly pointed out the importance of choosing for life assurance companies which are well established, which are earning a rate of interest in excess of the rate assumed in valuing the liabilities, and which provide for a higher rate of expenditure than is actually being incurred.

The report of the National Provident Institution, which has just been issued, shows the existence of all these favourable conditions. The rate of interest employed for the Valuation is £3 per cent., and the rate of interest earned £3 16s. 3d. The difference of more than three-quarters of 1 per cent. per annum of the funds is a contribution to surplus. The expenditure works out at 11 per cent. of the premiums, and as the expenditure provided for is 21 per cent. there is a surplus from this source of 10 per cent. of the premium income. Yet further profit has been derived from very favourable mortality experience, the amount paid in claims being only about 67 per cent. of the amount provided for by the tables employed in the Valuation.

The National Provident was started so long ago as 1835, and for a very long time past has been so managed as to provide the most excellent results for its policy-holders. Its condition is one of stable prosperity, and being a mutual office the welfare of its policy-holders is the sole concern of the managers. Like so many other companies of high standing it does not seek a large amount of new business, since normally this can only be obtained at an excessive cost. New assurances amounting to a little more than half a million is what the Institution usually reports. This

year the amount appears to be rather less than usual, but quite sufficient to maintain a steady increase in premium income. It is generally agreed that sufficient new business to maintain a small but steady growth is the ideal to be aimed at in the interests of existing policy-holders, and this ideal the National Provident invariably reaches. In such circumstances as these it is obvious that the National Provident is a good office in which to assure, and an examination of the results it has accomplished for its policy-holders shows in detail how well these various sources of surplus to which we have referred work out. The institution has a Valuation at the end of this year, and it needs little prophetic insight to foretell that the bonus results will be good.

Another mutual society which exhibits favourable conditions for its policy-holders is the National Mutual, the Seventy-second Annual Report of which has recently been published. The new business exceeds a quarter of a million, which is slightly more than the corresponding item in the previous year. The interest earned upon the funds exceeds the 3 per cent. assumed in the Valuation by 15s. per cent., and the margin of expenditure provided for in excess of the expenditure incurred is more than 4 per cent. of the premium income. A feature of the National Mutual, which is somewhat unusual in mutual societies, is that about 37 per cent. of the total assurances in force consist of non-participating policies, from which a considerable profit is doubtless derived, the whole of which is available for the holders of participating policies.

Another satisfactory feature of the report is the very detailed list of the society's securities. No security stands above the selling price on 31 December last, and many of them are stated at less than their market value. The revenue account shows a depreciation on Stock Exchange securities to the extent of £25,000, and like many other insurance companies the Society has felt the drop in the prices of railway stocks and shares of which it holds large amounts. In present circumstances the possession of high-class securities, which are systematically stated at their market value, necessitates this item of depreciation; but to a great extent, though probably not wholly, the securities will recover their value, and the loss prove more apparent than real.

The profit from light mortality during the year amounted to £13,536, and, but for the depreciation in value of securities, over which the management has no control, everything in the report indicates satisfactory progress and the existence of those conditions which contribute to the production of good results for the policy-holders.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

25 Jermyn Street, London, 1 February, 1902.

SIR,—Realising it were as useless to expect fairness from Mr. Cunninghame Graham towards the United States as to hope to change the bias, as persistent if more polite, of your Review against them, a citizen thereof only begs space to correct, for the benefit of your readers, an unjust inference in your issue of to-day. That Mr. Cunninghame Graham's nature should render him more sympathetic with the Spaniard at home or with the offshoots of the same stock in South America than with what he calls the "practical" people of the United States may be cause for comment only. That he should however trade upon English ignorance of American politicians to further his prejudices is unfair, and I am sure you will, in justice, grant me space to show that he has done so.

He reports Senator Teller (Teller) as having "attacked England in the vilest language" and quotes sentences from the speech "to point out the love and affection that our 'dear cousins' bear towards us". If Mr. Cunninghame Graham did not know Senator Teller's position in Congress as well as in affairs generally—and as he does not know his name it seems likely—he might at least have acquired a little information before seeking publicly to point a moral from the utterances of the senior Senator from Colorado.

Mr. Teller's position politically is if anything more isolated than that of an Irish member at Westminster. The Irishman has a party organisation which may give his opinions some support. Mr. Teller has none. He puts himself down as a member of the Silver party. He left the Republican party some years ago when it refused to advocate the free coinage of silver and declined to join the Democratic party which did. This much to show how idle it is to take his utterance as having any political or economic weight. In his silver speeches he has been hurling tirades against the "great gold-standard octopus-England" for years. His new charges are but a change of key. His record in this matter is so notorious that it were as unfair to take him for a representative of American feeling towards England as to take Mr. Cunninghame Graham in a correlative capacity as a representative Briton.

Whatever Mr. Teller may have said about the conduct of the British in South Africa, he at least should be given credit for having consistently said things just as bitter about the American policy in the Philippines. And this credit by inference Mr. Cunninghame Graham denies to him and to those of his countrymen who are pro-Boer. The Little Englander is the same in Washington as he is at Westminster, only there he has another name. One often hears Englishmen marvel that the declarations of parliamentary Ishmaelites are taken seriously in foreign countries. Yet even community of language does not save them from similar error whenever American politics are discussed.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHALMERS ROBERTS.

[We do not know whom our correspondent may mean by "parliamentary Ishmaelites". If he means the Irish Nationalists, the description is singularly unfortunate, since the Nationalists so far from being outcast have themselves cast off every English party.—ED. S.R.]

FORESEEING THE FUTURE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Burpham Lodge, Stoke Hill, near Guildford,
5 February, 1902.

DEAR SIR,—In your article under the above heading in your issue of 1 February you introduce the question of how long the supply of coal in England will last; say that the prophecies were doleful and finish the first paragraph with the words "Now the prophecies are cheerful because our new basis of fact is the discovery of electric power". Electricity is no source of energy in itself. It is nothing but a method of conveying power or energy from one point to another. It takes the place of a belt for transferring the power or energy generated by a steam engine or turbine to drive some machine suitable for producing some particular work. Coal, water-power (viz. the sun), chemical power and perhaps the tides are the only powers or sources of energy which we are at present acquainted with.

Yours faithfully, H. COODE.

P.S.—I forgot to say that wind-power must be included in the sources of power.

ENGLISH METHODS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Glen Lodge, Sligo, Ireland, 10 February, 1902.

SIR,—Will you permit an Irishman to point out to our "Foreign Critics" on the war how England has used her "giant's strength as a child"? In a cavalry war she has not used the finest in the world, her Indian cavalry, has in fact played and won the game with pawns and knights, of both of which Ireland has given more than her share.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VERNON COCHRANE.

AMERICAN INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hastings, 4 February, 1902.

SIR,—In your article on American insurance, you speak of the Tontine System, adopted by the New York Company, as being of a gambling nature. Undoubtedly this is so, but is not all insurance a gamble?

The directors of a life company sit round a table and

bet about human life, being aided in their calculations by an expert, called an actuary. If a few men band together to back horses by taking expert "tipsters' advice, they are called gamblers. They keep all their profits, whilst the directors are only permitted to keep a certain proportion by their actual employers—the public. Surely it is a distinction without much difference.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

SIMPLEX.

A RESERVE ARMY OF CITIZENS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

11 February, 1902.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the letter entitled "Compulsory Service" which appeared in your issue of 1 February. No one can fail to admit that a vast increase in our army is concomitant with the development of a policy of sound Imperialism. But how is the necessary increase of numerical strength to be effected? Voluntary enlistment is not a success and the Government would not dare to suggest conscription. It is a painful confession to make, but nine-tenths of our much-vaunted patriotism is a "loud-voiced sham", a beery froth blown up with air. We possess the finest Empire in the world, yet we will not risk our skins or sacrifice our love of ease to keep it. The Government with its huge majority and apology for an Opposition is too feeble to follow up the noise of sounding brass and tinkling cymbals it makes when it talks of Imperialism, and the nation is too selfish to compel the Government to do its duty.

There is another way of obtaining a large army of trained men which I would venture to suggest. A vast number of clerks, mechanics, and labourers might be induced to submit to military training if they were paid liberally for their time. They could be drilled for two or three evenings a week until efficient and then regularly practised in company and battalion drill once a fortnight. Field days and firing exercise might take place on Saturday afternoons or at some other suitable time. A certain bonus should be paid to each man on making himself efficient and a fixed yearly sum as long as he continues to keep himself in a state of military efficiency. By adopting this method the Government would have a vast number of trained and steady men, the flower of the nation's manhood, to help it in time of need.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

R. W. COLE.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

35 Trinity College, Dublin, 10 February, 1902.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with some astonishment the letter of Mr. George Gordon, one of my colleagues on the Fry Commission, in your issue of the 8th inst. It thoroughly illustrates two things: first, the absolute ignorance of English and Scotch people on Irish matters; and second, the constant anxiety of such persons to prove that land tenure in Ireland is so different from that in England or Scotland, that the State may violate all principles of political economy and disregard the guarantees of Acts of Parliament in Ireland, without the least danger of the application of such treatment to land in the other two countries.

In his criticism of the Chief Secretary's statement in Belfast "that no Unionist Government would ever introduce the principle of Compulsion into a Land Purchase Bill", Mr. Gordon says, "Certainly no Government would attempt to pass such an Act without clauses safeguarding the interest of the landowner". But, while admitting the necessity of such a condition, he gives figures later on to show what he means by "safeguarding this interest" in these words: "For holdings possessing an undoubted commercial letting value, the number of years' purchase would range from 14 to 20 years according to their size, situation and marketable qualities". "On the other hand, in the congested districts, &c., from 7 to 10 years' purchase would possibly be deemed the full value of the security". He forgets, to begin with, that all the disadvantages of unfavourable situation, markets, congestion, &c., have been taken into account in the fixing of the judicial rents by the Land Courts, but after these rents have

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SUPPLEMENT.

LONDON: 15 FEBRUARY, 1902.

GAUTIER IN ENGLISH.

"The Works of Théophile Gautier." In 24 volumes. Vols. 1-10. London and New York: George D. Sproul. 1901. 15s. each vol.

AN American publisher, Mr. George D. Sproul, of New York, and of 47 Great Russell Street, London, has had the admirable idea of publishing Gautier in English. He announces a limited edition in twenty-four volumes of which ten volumes have already appeared. The translator and editor is Professor F. C. de Sumichrast, Associate Professor of French in Harvard University. We are told that "the translator believes that his office compels him to express in all cases the exact thought of the author, clothed, as nearly as possible, in a diction as frank, as precise, as beautiful and as poetic, as it is in the original". And the edition is announced as "the first uniform edition in English of the works of Théophile Gautier".

It is a serious undertaking, and it has been set about in a serious spirit. The volumes are solid, plainly and pleasantly bound, well printed, though a little affected in the arrangement of the page, and the illustrations are admirably reproduced in photogravure. These illustrations, it is true, are not always well chosen, and in one instance, the "Travels in Spain", a curious blunder has been made. Opposite p. 313 is a plate described as "The Dancing Girl", and intended to illustrate an account of Spanish dancing. It represents an English skirt-dancer, and is a reproduction of a very poor drawing by Mr. Hal Ludlow, which has been reproduced in various cheap English periodicals; the drawing, if we remember rightly, is more or less a portrait of the less famous of the two Sisters Bilton. In the same volume we are not told that the plate opposite p. 58 is after a well-known etching of Goya. In "The Grotesques" an imaginary portrait of Villon is given as if it were an authentic portrait; the illustrations to "Constantinople" and "Travels in Italy" are in nearly every instance taken from somewhat casual photographs; and the original illustrations to the volume containing "Fortunio" and to "The Romance of a Mummy" are but indifferent. We are rarely told who an illustration is by, and are left to guess, or to discover by prying minutely into the corners of the plates, that the illustrations to "Mademoiselle de Maupin" are the Toudouze plates from the French edition.

The translation itself is for the most part extraordinarily good. It is quite possible to translate Gautier into English almost word for word, and cadence for cadence; his words are so precise, his cadences so regular, that a sensitive faithfulness to the original will render not only what he says but almost the exact way in which he says it. Very few translators seem able to realise that when a French writer puts down the word "délicat" he means delicate, and not exquisite, or anything else; that when he writes "bleu" he does not mean azure. To alter for alteration's sake seems to be the translator's first law. Now Mr. de Sumichrast has an almost absolute fidelity to the words of his original; he hears the sound of Gautier's cadences, and he follows them quite simply in English, perfectly good English, without foreign idiom, but with no more than the necessary transposition of phrase. Thus "Mademoiselle de Maupin" can for the first time be read in English, by those who do not know French, with a full appreciation of its qualities as literature. The literary criticisms, the art criticisms, can be read as if one were reading masterly English criticism. But Mr. de Sumichrast has not always kept his promise to "express in all cases the exact thought of the author". On the whole he has been frank, straightforward, and unhesitating in his rendering of Gautier's frank, straightforward, and unhesitating audacities; on the rare occasions when the phrase ceases to be naked and unashamed, and becomes unashamed and undressed, he has suppressed

the phrase, and we are not prepared to say that he has no justification for doing so. Only, on questions of modesty, opinions differ, and perhaps the fig-leaf at the end of the last chapter but one of "*Mademoiselle de Maupin*" is really larger than was at all necessary. But the chief omissions we have to complain of are not omissions on the ground of taste. We have had the curiosity to compare Mr. de Sumichrast's translation of the "*Voyage en Espagne*" with another, and certainly much inferior, translation into English, published in 1853 under the title "*Wanderings in Spain*". Roughly calculating the number of words in each, we find that no less than a third of the book has been omitted by Mr. de Sumichrast. The same editing has been done with the "*Travels in Spain*" and "*Constantinople*". On looking here and there it is evident that the compression has been done by no means unintelligently. But why compress? And why compress without warning the English reader that he is not reading Gautier as Gautier wished to be read, but Gautier as Mr. de Sumichrast prefers him?

Such, then, are the defects as well as the merits of this edition, which deserves a hearty welcome, in spite of the defects. Here, at last, is some considerable portion of Gautier in English, good English, and there is little doubt that anyone reading him for the first time in this edition will find himself, with equal astonishment and satisfaction, in a new world, very different from any English-peopled continent known to him.

Gautier has spoken for himself in a famous passage of "*Mademoiselle de Maupin*", part of which I will quote in this excellent translation: "I am a man of the time of Homer; the world in which I live is not mine, and I am not in touch with the society around me. Christ did not come for me; I am as much of a pagan as Alcibiades or Phidias. I have never gathered on Golgotha the flowers of the Passion, and the deep stream that flows from the open side of the Crucified One, girdling the world with blood, has not laved me; my rebellious body refuses to acknowledge the supremacy of the soul, and my flesh will not submit to be mortified. I think earth as fair as heaven, and virtue, to me, lies in the beauty of form. I care nothing for spirituality; I prefer a statue to a phantasm, and high noon to twilight. Three things delight me: gold, marble, and purple; brilliancy, solidity, colour. . . . I have looked at love with the light of antiquity and as a more or less perfect piece of sculpture. . . . All my life I have been concerned with the shape of the flagon, never with the quality of its contents." That is part of a confession of faith, and it is spoken with absolute sincerity. Gautier knew himself, and could tell the truth about himself as simply, as impartially, as if he had been describing a work of art. Or is he not, indeed, describing a work of art? Was not that very state of mind, that finished and limited temperament, a thing which he had collaborated with nature in making, with an effective heightening of what was most natural to him, in the spirit of art?

Gautier saw the world as mineral, as metal, as pigment, as rock, tree, water, as architecture, costume, under sunlight, gas, in all the colours that light can bring out of built or growing things; he saw it as contour, movement; he saw all that a painter sees when the painter sets himself to copy, not to create. He was the finest copyist who ever used paint with a pen. Nothing that can be expressed in technical terms escaped him; there were no technical terms which he could not reduce to an orderly beauty. But he absorbed all this visible world with the hardly discriminating impartiality of the retina; he had no moods, was not to be distracted by a sentiment, heard no voices, saw nothing but darkness, the negation of day, in night. He was tirelessly attentive, he had no secrets of his own and could keep none of nature's. He could describe every ray of the nine thousand precious stones in the throne of Ivan the Terrible, in the Treasury of the Kremlin; but he could tell you nothing of one of Maeterlinck's bees.

The five senses made Gautier for themselves, that they might become articulate. He speaks for them all, with a dreadful unconcern. All his words are in

love with matter, and they enjoy their lust and have no recollection. If the body did not dwindle and expand, to some ignoble physical conclusion; if wrinkles did not creep yellowing up women's necks, and the fire in a man's blood did not lose its heat; he would always be content. Everything that he cared for in the world was to be had, except, perhaps, rest from striving after it; only, everything would one day come to an end, after a slow spoiling. Decrepit, colourless, uneager things shocked him, and it was with an acute, almost disinterested pity that he watched himself die.

All his life Gautier adored life, and all the processes and forms of life. A pagan, a young Roman, hard and delicate, with something of cruelty in his sympathy with things that could be seen and handled, he would have hated the soul, if he had ever really apprehended it, for its qualifying and disturbing power upon the body. No other modern writer, no writer perhaps, has described nakedness with so abstract a heat of rapture: like d'Albert when he sees Mlle. de Maupin for the first and last time, he is the artist before he is the lover, and he is the lover while he is the artist. It was above all things the human body whose contours and colours he wished to fix for eternity, in the "robust art" of "verse, marble, onyx, enamel". And it was not the body as a frail, perishable thing, and a thing to be pitied, that he wanted to perpetuate; it was the beauty of life itself, imperishable at least in its recurrence.

He loved imperishable things: the body, as generation after generation refashions it, the world, as it is restored and rebuilt, and then gems, and hewn stone, and carved ivory, and woven tapestry. He loved verse for its solid, strictly limited, resistant form, which, while prose melts and drifts about it, remains unalterable, indestructible. Words, he knew, can build as strongly as stones, and not merely rise to music, like the walls of Troy, but be themselves music as well as structure. Only, as in visible things he cared only for hard outline and rich colour, so in words too he had no taste in half-tints, and was content to do without that softening of atmosphere which was to be prized by those who came after him as what was most worth seeking. Even his verse is without mystery; if he meditates, his meditation has all the fixity of a kind of sharp, precise criticism.

What Gautier saw he saw with unparalleled exactitude: he allows himself no poetic license, or room for fine phrases; has his eye always on the object, and really uses the words which best describe it, whatever they may be. So his books of travel are guide-books, in addition to being other things; and not by any means "states of soul", or states of nerves. He is willing to give you information, and able to give it to you without deranging his periods. The little essay on Leonardo is an admirable piece of artistic divination, and it is also a clear, simple, sufficient account of the man, his temperament, and his way of work. The study of Baudelaire, reprinted in the édition définitive of the "*Fleurs du Mal*", remains the one satisfactory summing up, it is not a solution, of the enigma which Baudelaire personified; and it is almost the most coloured and perfumed thing in words which he ever wrote. He wrote equally well about cities, poets, novelists, painters, or sculptors; he did not understand one better than the other, or feel less sympathy for one than for another. He, the "parfait magicien des lettres françaises," to whom faultless words came in faultlessly beautiful order, could realise, against Balzac himself, that Balzac had a style: "he possesses, though he did not think so, a style, and a very beautiful style, the necessary, inevitable mathematical style of his ideas". He appreciated Ingres as justly as he appreciated El Greco; he went through the Louvre, room by room, saying the right thing about each painter in turn. He did not say the final thing; he said nothing which we have to pause and think over before we see the whole of its truth or apprehend the whole of its beauty. Truth, in him, comes to us almost literally through the eyesight, and with the same beautiful clearness as if it were one of those visible things which delighted him most: gold, marble, and purple; brilliancy, solidity, colour.

AN ILLUSORY LIFE OF STEVENSON.

"The Life of R. L. Stevenson." By Graham Balfour. 2 vols. London: Constable. 1901. 25s. net.

MR. GRAHAM BALFOUR'S book is the work of a competent writer with old-fashioned virtues of dignity and restraint in style, the work also of a sympathetic and affectionate observer; the account he gives of his kinsman could not be better done by one of the household anxious to explain and amplify to the world his public attitude and at the same time to justify and excuse it to the family circle. For all that the making of a book like this rests, it seems to us, on a misunderstanding. Men of action, whose deeds would otherwise remain unknown or obscure, call for chroniclers to tell the story for which they have only furnished the material. A writer, again, may have passed a life of adventure, incidental or moral, that has not been the subject of his books, and is interesting enough to call for record. But a writer like Stevenson, whose whole life was spent in eagerly watching what happened to himself, in taking an attitude towards all his experiences, in presenting to the world with a rare literary gift these experiences and that attitude, is a shockingly bad subject for a biography. The illusion is perhaps natural that bids us look for a delightful life on the strength of the glimpses already given in books and letters. On the contrary the field has been already reaped by a very careful husbandman, every scrap of available material has been winnowed and sorted or deliberately reserved: the gleaner will only find what was left as unworkable or unwriteable. The biographer is placed in the absurd position of trying to repaint the picture already artfully finished and set in the best light; with the art of the painter he can hardly contend, and all that remains for him is to fill in the expressly excluded details, the insignificant and trivial circumstances of which the essence has been distilled or transposed. Mr. Balfour is a perfectly modest man working under an illusion. If he saw clearly he would see that the task he sets out upon is no less than writing Stevenson's books over again and writing them better than Stevenson, for he does not propose to himself an independent point of view. Take for an example the relation between the son and the father. This matter, as one might expect, is, even more than need be, present and important to the biographer. He cannot recreate for us the very acts, dialogues, states of mind of those two people, affectionate, painfully divided by theory, much alike in nature, and if he could in some sort give them, how much less illuminating would the narrative be than the picture imaginatively thrown up by Stevenson in "Weir of Hermiston".

Mr. Balfour's Life, then, strikes us as a superfluous book, because following on the lines of Stevenson's own picture and apology it only makes the lines duller and more encumbered. What is more serious is that at certain points they must, by such following, be distorted. Stevenson, playing the lantern of his art just where he chose upon his history, was free of this difficulty: his biographer, making a continuous narrative, cannot but be aware of some difficult joints, and if he glides over and omits, he offends against the integrity of biography. No one is bound to relate, no one can claim to know the private life of a writer, but if it is written it should not be modified in the interests of the established order. Mr. Balfour is the friend of the later Stevenson, and in all good faith reads the life from that period with an apologetic word for the wild oats of youth. He hardly realises that Stevenson's earlier programme was a quite unashamed championing of the theory of youth against that of age, and that this Stevenson must seem the more authentic to many who remember him. If a biographer was called for at all it was just in this development that the reason for him lay; he was called to be critical, to examine the logic that bound together the earlier man and the later. There was so much of excuse for Mr. Henley's attack; but the occasion called for a mind interested in morals, not for one poisoned by personal animus and violently a partisan for half the bundle of conflicting ideas that made up Stevenson.

The critical biographer must expound a Stevenson of double nature. To his early circle of friends he was a

Bohemian, all for a free and adventurous life. This youth, the rover, the light of love, the despiser of the settled bourgeois, is discovered later settled down, married, a landed proprietor and something very like a Sunday School teacher. To the early friends this must seem a betrayal, and the man who can take up the morality of his new position as warmly and ingeniously as the old, a sad hypocrite. To the family circle (which Mr. Balfour represents) the early life is the aberration, the prodigal has come home. To the critic on the other hand, who reads the life in the light of Stevenson's writings, it is clear that he was never a quite whole-hearted Bohemian: from the first he is divided between the impulses of freedom and those of piety, filial piety in the foreground, but something more. His statement of the case for the Bohemian is very general, never frank or close. It may be read simply as a plea for a good deal of open-air exercise. He is anxious that it should never go beyond what could justify itself to the people at home. His writings are full of the observations in detail in the field of morals of a mind singularly lucid, unsparing of pretence and ingenious in finding occasions for virtue, full of deductions to special cases of general laws of courage and kindness; but upon many fundamental and crucial points there is a reserve that must strike those familiar with his free speculation in talk as excessive. Stevenson probably considered that English literature was in our day a conversation with far too many listeners for a man to talk publicly as he would among his friends: the freest of speakers checks himself in the nursery, the schoolroom or the servants' hall. Mr. Balfour is the innocent cause that this reserve is likely to be broken. Stevenson's own communication to the public might have remained unattacked for all its reserve; but a picture of him purporting to be complete that leaves out the revolutionary must needs provoke retort. The worst of it is that the gaping valets are likely to be the only gainers. A fuller, franker picture of his life in all the turns of its convictions would have been a document worth having from Stevenson's hand, but scruples about the actors, the audience, and misgivings about the convictions themselves, doubtless shut his mouth. Squabbles over disputable incidents in his transactions with his intimates will not make for enlightenment. But is it not a wonderful thing, showing how doubtful, how little confident, how guilty are men's surest-seeming convictions, that the hint of nonconformity in Stevenson's writings, the whisper about it in his talk and life threaten to set the writing world by the ears, and this decently sculptured tombstone will not keep down the ghost?

CHARLES EDWARD'S SECRET
CORRESPONDENCE.

"Une famille Royaliste Irlandaise et Française et le Prince Charles Edward." Nantes: Grimaud. 1901.

IN his preface to this work the Duc de la Trémoille tells us how in cataloguing his family archives at Serrant he came across a certain batch of letters addressed by one Douglas to a man of the name of Legrand. A distant relative placed him on their track and thanks to his assistance he was able to identify them with the correspondence between Charles Edward and Antoine Vincent Walsh the Nantes shipowner. Any doubts that might still remain were shortly removed as he discovered a short note from the Prince in which he wrote to his financial agent: "Dorénavant mon adresse est Monsieur Douglas". "Souvenez-vous que pour tout le monde vous êtes Monsieur Legrand". This was enough for the Duc de la Trémoille who made up his mind to publish all the documents that he could find at Serrant relating to the Jacobite movement. Those that deal with the events that accompanied the rising of 1745 are of considerable historic interest. It is not generally known that from November 1745 to April 1746 Louis XV. was contemplating a simultaneous invasion of this country, or that he had given Walsh authority to impress all the merchant vessels he could find with the object of landing eighteen regiments of infantry and two regiments of cavalry in Great Britain. There can be no doubt

that had this invasion taken place when Charles Edward was on his way to Derby or at any time before the battle of Culloden, the effect must have been very great. Indeed it is quite possible that at the moment when George II. had made all his preparations for his flight to Hanover London would have been absolutely at the mercy of the Pretender. There has never been any explanation of the failure of this expedition. It is possible that it was detained by contrary winds; it may have been unable to elude the English fleet. We are not aware that many particulars are to be found in the archives of the French Foreign Office, and we are therefore forced to the conclusion that the King of France was unable to make up his mind until it was too late, and that once the battle of Culloden had been lost such an enterprise became hopeless. The value of the Duc de la Trémoille's work also lies in the fact that he has given us some slight notion of what Charles Edward was doing from 1754 to 1760. It is true that we are not able to understand this correspondence very clearly as it is. The identity of most of the persons alluded to in these letters is concealed by pseudonyms. Some are clear enough. Thus Charles Edward is Burton, and Mansfield is possibly his father. We are however unable to agree with the editor in his explanation of the following passage in a letter dated 12 May, 1757: "Les procureurs à Rotterdam dont vous parlez ont été et sont toujours bien disposés pour cette jeune fille mais il faut des assurances de cette vieille tante Ellis" which we interpret as meaning that "my supporters in England have been and always are well disposed to me but I must have assurances from King Louis XV." and not from "George II." as the editor interprets Ellis in accordance with a key in his possession to the cypher subsequently used by Charles Edward in his correspondence with Antoine Walsh's younger brother François Jacques Walsh, Count de Serrant. There are however several names that have hitherto escaped detection, and we are convinced that the value of this correspondence will be very considerably increased when further light has been thrown upon the identity of the pseudonyms. These letters furnish a good deal of evidence that Charles Edward was very much blamed by his supporters for the policy which he pursued or for what he called his system. Thus he writes on 21 May, 1751 "Je recoi la votre du 15^{me} courant; non, monsieur, la povre fille en question [meaning himself] ne mène pas une vie molle, ni cela ne sera jamais son choix, mais elle est déterminée à ne pas quitter le couvent où elle demeure présentement à moins d'avoir une établissement convenable et je trouve qu'elle a raison." And again on 26 November he writes "J'ai reçu, Monsieur, hier la votre du 19 du courant. Je puis vous assurer que M. Burton méprise bien tous les critiques de ses petites comis [his supporters] il s'est fait un système et il le poursuivra." We have evidence of how steadfastly the Prince refused to make himself a tool of the French Ministers by consenting to hand Ireland over to France as her reward for her support. The story of his interview with Cardinal Tencin is well known. When the Cardinal told him that Louis XV. would help him on that condition the Prince replied: "Non Monsieur le Cardinal, tout ou rien, point de partage, point de partage." Thus he writes on 16 August, 1758: "J'ai reçu Monsieur le votre du 10^{me} courant et suis fort surpris de ce que vous me marqué touchant la succession d'un certain bien; il est indivisible et toutes les parties concernant le bien de Sanfourd. Si cette terre n'est pas cédée, il n'y a rien à faire et j'ai de bonnes raisons à croire qu'il ne pourra pas manquer d'être décidé comme cela puisque la chose est juste par conséquent pas difficile à accomplir si on le veut, d'ailleurs M^r Burton ne manque pas d'amis à Sanfourd même pour l'aider à [?] contre tout ceux qui voudraient faire tor." We are inclined to think that the editor has here again used the later cypher as it is most probable that Sanfourd means Ireland and not Scotland. During most of this correspondence whether it is carried on in French or in English Charles Edward's spelling is decidedly phonetic. Thus he compresses "à cette heure" into one word "asteur". From 1766 on is however a marked improvement as Andrew Lumsden became his private secretary. About this time his chief anxiety was to secure recogni-

tion from the Pope Benedict XIV. who declined to incur the hostility of England by in any way acknowledging his title to the throne. In the meantime, the Count de Serrant had replaced Antoine Walsh who had died in S. Domingo in 1763. He had some influence in Spain as he had amassed a very considerable fortune as a shipbuilder at Cadiz. He spent a good deal of this money in acquiring the historic Château de Serrant near Angers, and it is through him that the Duc de la Trémoille has acquired all these documents, for François Jacques' granddaughter, Valentine Walsh de Serrant, married the late Duc de la Trémoille as his third wife in 1830 and his son only inherited the château and its archives seven years ago on the death of his first cousin Ludovic Walsh 6th Count de Serrant. The work is well got up and does justice to the public spirit of the author whose main object is to throw as much light as possible on this obscure part of the history of the Jacobite movement. The frontispiece is the well-known portrait of Charles Edward giving Antoine "Earl" Walsh his instructions for the Courts of France and Spain. The prince who is abnormally tall as compared with Walsh is dressed in Highland kilt, and the background is very probably taken from some spot near Lochnanuagh. We trust that, as this work becomes known, some attempts will be made to elucidate the cypher which robs it of much of its value, for this will enhance its historic importance.

"BOUND IN BLUE CLOTH AND LETTERED."

"A History of Police in England." By Captain W. L. Melville Lee. London: Methuen. 1901. 7s. 6d.

IT is somewhat remarkable that the police system of England should have remained so long without an historian. Perhaps this neglect may be explained by the formidable nature of the research which a complete history would involve. To accomplish such an undertaking, it is not sufficient to ransack the archives of London libraries, and study a vast amount of literature dealing with particular phases of the subject. County and parish records have also to be examined; for, although the main principle of a police system may have been adopted all over the country, the details of its application vary. And with these details many quaint and instructive customs are connected, which throw light on other matters besides police. Only two contributions have appeared in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Dr. Patrick Colquhoun's celebrated "Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis" came out in 1796, and ran into several editions. Another work, by Messrs. C. T. Clarkson and J. H. Richardson, was published in 1889, and gave a short account of police administration and operations in the metropolitan area.

The expectations raised by the title of Captain Lee's book are modified on turning to his preface and introduction. He does not pretend to furnish a complete history. He only "approaches" the subject, and attempts no more than "to trace in outline the story of English police". We may say at once that his attempt has been carried out with some skill, and we owe him thanks for these 400 pages of information and comment. Much credit is due to the author for working round his subject in the endeavour to ascertain the controlling influences which at times retarded and at other times promoted the development of police. He begins with a brief survey of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods, and shows the rise of the peace-pledge institution, so often misrendered "frank-pledge". Although the peace-pledge disappeared under the Angevin kings, the principle underlying it—that of mutual responsibility—retained its hold in England down to the seventeenth century. The work of consolidation effected by Edward I., through the Statute of Winchester and the Statute for the City of London, was partly undermined by his successor. But the great achievement of the English Justinian was endowed with wonderful vitality. The provisions of the Statute of Winchester were reinforced again and again as a panacea for lawlessness, and not until the days of George II. did it occur to any of our legislators that the statute was becoming rather

stale and musty. Blindness to public requirements, and the rule of *laissez faire*, have marked the attitude of most of our lawmakers towards the police question from the latter part of the Plantagenet age down to 1829. Vagrants had a particularly hard time under the Tudors, and enactments which "told people what they were to eat, how they were to dress, and the number of hours they must labour", resulted at last in popular risings, rendering it necessary to pass a penal statute against unlawful assemblies, which has survived in part in the Riot Act of to-day. During the "Dogberry" period the Roaring Boys and other Hooligans of the time had their own way in the streets, whilst the constable and his men kept out of danger, and "sat upon the church-bench till two, and then all to bed". It was the corrupt magistracy who were largely responsible for rascally, good-natured "Dogberry". The excesses and violence in town and country, which came in the wake of the Restoration, met with no adequate check. It is true that a thousand Bellmen, afterwards called "Charlies", were appointed, but they, together with the parochial peace-officers of later times, were almost as incompetent as the skulking watchman of Shakespeare's days. When, approaching the era of reform, Captain Lee passes in review the movements which led to a reform of the magistracy, as a pre-requisite to an improvement in the methods of guarding life and property, he shows how Henry and Sir John Fielding, Bentham, Romilly, Colquhoun, and others, worked to bring about a better state of things, and how Parliamentary Commissions played at "investigating" the police problem, until Peel grappled with the difficulty, and introduced his famous measure, "An Act for improving the Police in and near the Metropolis". Reform followed in boroughs and counties, mainly on the metropolitan model, and developments under successive commissioners have brought the system inaugurated by Peel to a high state of efficiency.

It is not a pleasant task to point out defects in this laborious literary effort, but it is necessary to draw attention to one or two matters, especially in the earlier pages, that provoke adverse criticism. A work of this kind ought to be provided with ample references to authorities, which has not been done, and the value of the book is thereby materially lessened. The author admits that references have been "sparingly given"; but that "dwellers in camps and barracks" are debarred from taking "full advantage of good reference libraries" is no valid ground or excuse for the omission. Moreover, some of the few references are unreliable, and others deficient, the titles of books being named, but no pages. The first chapter seems to show that the author has not closely studied the Anglo-Saxon Laws and leading authorities on the period; otherwise, he would have devoted a few lines to the "mægburh" (kindred) plan of police, which was really the beginning of the police of England, and held its ground until, with the increase of population and the separation of families, a development became necessary, and gilds and tithings were established. With reference to the "frith-gilds" of London, we must take exception to the author's remark that their object was "simply mutual assurance". The "*Judicia Civitatis Londoniæ*", which is not mentioned by Captain Lee, contains the earliest direct information relative to the police of London. According to this valuable document, the chief object of the London gilds was to enforce existing laws, and render them effectual in preserving peace and order; to relieve individual members from personal liability the gild-brethren paid annual subscriptions to a common fund. The statement that a tithing (that is, a police tithing) "consisted of the inhabitants of ten households" is scarcely satisfactory. The police tithings consisted each of ten men, a fact which Captain Lee seems to recognise afterwards. The tithing-man is said to have been a functionary in the time of Alfred, whereas we hear nothing of him until the reign of Edgar, or at least not earlier than Athelstane. Something should have been said about the "gesith", who held important police functions amongst the earlier Saxons, and whose duties are specified in the laws of Ine. According to Professor Earle, a "gesith" police-

man was placed in every township. "Grithbryce" and "frithbrec" were not "fines", but breaches of the peace. It is not a little surprising to find another repetition of the legend of William the Conqueror and the curfew bell, without a qualification as to the doubtful veracity of Polydore Vergil, or a hint that investigation has shown that as far back as Alfred the curfew probably tolled "the knell of parting day" and warned the people to go home to rest.

MILITARY BOOKS.

"Sepoy Generals: Wellington to Roberts." By G. W. Forrest. London: Blackwood. 1901. 6s.

The title of this volume would be well changed to "Nothing like Leather," for Mr. Forrest, as an ex Indian Government official, in his anxiety to demonstrate that India is the true home of our most successful generals, has jumbled together a number of British commanders who either as servants of John Company have spent a lifetime in the East or who, as soldiers of the rulers of these isles, have passed a portion of their services in India—and elsewhere. Wellington's claim to be included in the roll is due of course to Napoleon's famous *plaisanterie*. But it shows a lack of all proportion to place Wellington, Charles Napier, and some others in the same category as those who were brought up in Sepoy corps. We should like to ask how it is that Lord Napier of Magdala's name is not included in the roll of honour. His brilliant services and his successful campaign in Abyssinia—a war which by the way he finished in a workmanlike style—would seem to be at least as worthy of mention as some other achievements described in this volume. Voluminous extracts from various military works, generally accessible to the public, are given, not always with great care or exactitude. Thus there is half a page on p. 127 which appears word for word on p. vii. of the preface. Again, Charles Napier is reported to have joined the "Staff College" after Waterloo—over half a century before that establishment was founded. We are glad to note that mention is made of Sir Donald Stewart's brilliant march from Candahar to Cabul, a famous feat, which in the opinion of those who took part both in it and Roberts' return march along the same route subsequently was infinitely the worthier of admiration of the two. The volume ends significantly enough with Lord Roberts' farewell order to the troops in South Africa on the "completion" of the war there in November 1900. It will be interesting to observe whether Lord Kitchener's supreme services in the South African War will suffer eclipse as completely as have Sir Donald Stewart's in Afghanistan.

"The Life of Major-General Sir Robert Murdoch Smith, K.C.M.G., Royal Engineers." By his Son-in-law, William Kirk Dickson. London: Blackwood. 1901. 15s.

The career of Robert Murdoch Smith affords an excellent example of the many-sided lives led by some of the officers of our Corps of Royal Engineers. When only a young subaltern, in 1856, he was recommended for employment in connexion with the delimitation of the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia at the termination of the Crimean War. This employment having fallen through, he was nominated for work on the Oregon Boundary Commission but before taking up these duties found himself selected to accompany the Newton Archaeological Expedition to Asia Minor. It was this expedition, known as the Halicarnassus Expedition, which gave the ultimate turn to his career and caused him to become an ardent student of archaeology. The results of the Newton Expedition are to be seen in the British Museum in the shape of the priceless remains of ancient sculpture from the magnificent tomb of Mausolus, Prince of Caria, dating back to the fourth century B.C.

"Trooper 8008 I.Y." By the Hon. Sidney Peel. London: Edward Arnold. 1901.

This is a straightforward account of the services of the author's Company of Yeomanry in the Free State and may be taken as illustrative of the good work done by that useful body of men, the Imperial Yeomanry. His description of the raising of his corps recalls the mot that "half of the men couldn't ride and the other half couldn't shoot". That such was the case with a considerable proportion of the recruits is tolerably evident and he admits reluctantly that their weak point throughout the campaign was their shooting. It is refreshing to hear an articulate opinion from the ranks on the subject of our military chain of discipline. Alluding to frantic but futile efforts of those in authority to turn the Yeomanry into Regulars he drily remarks "But we wore them down eventually". It is amusing to learn that the private soldiers of infantry were throughout extremely friendly to the Yeomanry and fully appreciated their value, whereas they were not always so sure of the volunteer infantry, especially the C.I.V., whom they regarded more as competitors.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Ronald and I: or Scenes and Characters from a Village of the Past." By Alfred Pretor. Cambridge: Deighton Bell. 1901.

This is a collection of sketches, as it seems to us loosely strung together and not very reasonably named as a whole. But we think Mr. Thomas Hardy—for presumably he is the friend whose advice Mr. Pretor sought—did well in giving encouragement as well as in pointing out faults. The prologue, as it is called, serves no very good purpose with its jumble of things about editors and Aristophanes and "Wuthering Heights", and we do not understand quite what the writer is driving at. But there is distinction in several other sketches in this little volume, and pathos and humour are not always absent. "The Cruel Crawling Foam"—a daring name to give anything that is not first-class—a sketch which Mr. Pretor says was founded on fact, is good, and we like too "Fighting the Cholera", which also to some extent may recall Kingsley's work. "Our Rector" tells of a very Evangelical old parson. He breakfasted late—in church. "A cigar was the indispensable accompaniment of the Second Lesson, during which period its fumes could be seen ascending like 'curling incense' to the blackened rafters of the roof." It sounds like a description of the every evening behaviour of the famous old waiter at S—'s Restaurant not so many years ago, who chatted with his favourite customers over their chop or poached egg, as he smoked his briarwood pipe. But Mr. Pretor is prepared to swear that "Our Rector" is absolutely true. The last sermon Mr. Pretor ever heard "Our Rector" preach was on the text, "And there shall be no more sea": "an unwise and disquieting subject for a congregation, most of whom come of a race of fishermen".

"Old Time Gardens." By Alice Morse Earl. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1902. 8s. 6d. net.

This is described by the author as a book of "the Sweet of the Year", and there certainly lingers about many of its pages something of the aroma of the garden in June days. The love of the earlier English settlers in America for their gardens is a pleasant thing to dwell upon as Mrs. Earl does and as Hawthorne did in a choice passage in his "Note-book". "The Herb Garden" is one of the best chapters in this enthusiastic book. It is a strange fact that the gardens of New England are quite destitute of lavender: but tansy and rue and basil and most of the others are well represented.

"Jane Austen: her Homes and her Friends." By Constance Hill. London: Lane. 1901. 21s. net.

Miss Hill of course visited Bath, Chawton, Winchester and Southampton; but she also went to the far more secluded village of Steventon—Jane Austen's birthplace—and examined the chief houses and landmarks connected with her heroine in that country. Dean and Malshanger and Overton and Oakley—the names are very good to those who have dwelt in, perhaps even to some who have scampered through, this pleasant land.

"My Residence at the Court of the Amir." By Dr. J. A. Gray. London: Macmillan. 1901. 6s.

The Amir's death has furnished an opportunity for a fresh edition of Dr. Gray's work—perhaps with the exception of Abdur Rahman's own autobiography, the most interesting narrative yet written of the daily life of the Afghan Court and of the striking personage who ruled it. Dr. Gray records his experiences and observations in a simple and effective style and lightens them with many stories and anecdotes which appropriately illustrate the characters and incidents he depicts.

"The Politicians' Handbook." By H. Whates. London: Vacher. 1902. 6s. net.

This is the fourth year Mr. Whates has issued his digest of State papers and blue-books. Probably the author finds his task easier than at the beginning, and is able to get at the vitals with comparative ease; but the "unestimated pains" of a reputation for reducing blue-book to pemmican might have stirred the sympathy of Browning. In his introductory "The State Papers—A Review" Mr. Whates points out, in regard to the attitude of the British Government as to the Canal, that "such comments as had appeared in the press—with the single exception of the SATURDAY REVIEW—had been of the kind which expressed satisfaction at the close, for whatever reasons and on whatever terms, of a controversy that had become tiresome". He refrains from discussing why "this atrophy of the critical powers of the press" has taken place.

The Reports of Oxford University Institutions for the year 1900 issued by the Clarendon Press give a useful summary of progress. The most important statement is concerned with the Bodleian. Owing to an extraordinary press of extra work the funds are in so low a state that it has been impossible to supply the extra storage room, which is urgently needed. Plans however have been submitted for the University's approval and it is hoped that within a year or two the necessary room will be supplied.

LITERARY NOTES.

Major Percy Molesworth Sykes, H.M. Consul at Kerman, has been seeing through the press the proof sheets of an important book on Central Asian experiences. "Ten Thousand Miles in Persia" is a record of eight years' constant travel in Eastern and Southern Iran. The author writes with special reference to the geography and history of Persia as well as to its commercial resources, the opening up of trade routes, and to the journeys of Alexander the Great and Marco Polo. The work, the utility of which will be enhanced by several maps and many illustrations, will be published by Mr. John Murray. Mr. Basil Thomson's account of "Savage Island" one of the least known of the Polynesian Islands is to be published by Mr. Murray in March.

"Contentio Veritatis", is the title given to seven "essays in constructive theology" by six Oxford tutors. The book seems calculated to attract considerable attention. The Rev. H. Rashdall, M.A., writes on "The Ultimate Basis of Theism"; the Rev. W. R. Inge, M.A., on "The Person of Christ" and "The Sacraments"; the Rev. W. H. Wild, M.A., on "The Teaching of Christ"; the Rev. C. F. Burney, M.A., on "Modern Criticism and the Old Testament"; the Rev. W. C. Allen, on "Modern Criticism and the New Testament"; and the Rev. A. J. Carlyle, M.A., on "The Church". The Rev. A. J. Carlyle in conjunction with Mrs. Carlyle and F. S. Marvin, M.A., will be responsible for a biographical-historical sketch "Heroes of the West" which Mr. Murray is about to add to his school library. Among new editions being prepared by the same house may be mentioned Dr. Gore's "Essays on Church Reform", Mr. G. Baldwin Brown's "The Fine Arts", and Crowe and Cavalcaselle's "History of Painting". The sixth volume of the new text of Byron's poetry published by Mr. Murray will be devoted to "Don Juan".

Apocryphal of Mr. Murray's announcements those who read and enjoyed Mr. Alfred Ollivant's "Owd Bob" will look forward to the same writer's new serial "Danny" which is to commence in the March issue of "The Monthly Review".

Volume IV. of the seven-volume "History of the English Church" which the Dean of Winchester and the Rev. William Hunt, M.A., are editing for Messrs. Macmillan, is nearly ready. It will treat of "The English Church in the Sixteenth Century from the Accession of Henry VIII. to the Death of Mary". Dr. Gairdner is the author. The same publishers have also in the press (1) the concluding volume of "The Scientific Memoirs of Thomas Henry Huxley", edited by Sir M. Foster and Professor Ray Lankester; (2) "The Elizabethan Prayer Book and Ornaments" by Dr. H. Gee; (3 and 4) two volumes by Bishop Welldon, entitled respectively "The Revelation of the Holy Spirit" and "I Live": being Hints on the Christian Life"; (5) a selection of sermons and addresses, "Words of Faith and Hope", by the late Bishop Westcott; and (6) "Addresses on the Acts of the Apostles", by the late Archbishop Benson, with an introduction by Adeline, Duchess of Bedford. A revised, largely re-written, and copiously illustrated edition of "The Book of the Rose", by the Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, M.A., will be issued by Messrs. Macmillan in time for use in the coming spring.

Early next week Messrs. Longmans will publish a work entitled "Homeric Society: a Sociological Study of the 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey'" by Albert Galloway Keller, Ph.D., Instructor in Social Science in Yale University. Two books on the war are shortly to be issued by Messrs. Longmans (1) "Tommy Cornstalk: being some Account of the Less Notable Features of the South African War from the point of view of the Australian Ranks"; and (2) "Records of Lumsden's Horse", edited by Reginald Rankin. The latter work will give a full account of the formation of Lumsden's Horse and its services and will be accompanied by a map and contain numerous portraits and illustrations. Messrs. Longmans have in the press two volumes by the late Bishop of London. One book will contain a number of Historical Essays and Reviews, including an essay on Dante and a review of the late Mr. J. A. Symonds' "The Renaissance in Italy". The second volume will be made up of speeches and sermons on education.

Mr. Henry Frowde has in preparation a new and revised edition of the "English-Swahili Dictionary", by A. C. Madan, M.A., student of Christ Church Oxford. The work was originally compiled for the Universities Mission to Central Africa. From the Clarendon Press may also be expected very shortly "An Antiquarian Companion to English History", edited by F. P. Barnard, M.A., and a school book on Classical Archaeology, written by Percy Gardner, M.A. and J. L. Myres, M.A., and intended for use in the VI. Form.

Dr. P. Hume Brown's "History of Scotland", which the Cambridge University Press are issuing is to be extended to three volumes. Vol. II. will be ready in about a fortnight.

Messrs. Stevens and Sons have several law books in the press, including "Ruegg and Mossop's Law of Factories and Workshops" as amended and consolidated by the Act of 1901; a tenth edition of "Wharton's Law Lexicon"; a seventh edition of "Pollock's Principles of Contract"; and the thirteenth edition of "Chitty's Forms of Practical Proceedings in the King's Bench Division".

(Continued on page x.)

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Messrs. Blackwood have nearly ready two new volumes in their "Modern English Writers" series. The first of these, an enthusiastic estimate of T. H. Huxley has been written by Mr. Edward Clodd, who deals with his subject under five heads, viz., the Man, the Discoverer, the Interpreter, the Controversialist, and the Constructor. A volume on Thackeray by Mr. Charles Whibley will follow. Mr. Quiller-Couch is to deal with George Eliot, the volume on whom was originally undertaken by Mr. Sidney Lee. Messrs. Blackwood are about to publish a romance entitled "Monsieur Martin", by Wymond Carey, a writer who under his own name has achieved distinction in another branch of literature. The eighth impression of "Words by an Eye Witness", by "Linesman" (Captain Maurice Grant) will be issued by Messrs. Blackwood immediately with a new preface. The author of "John Splendid", Mr. Neil Munro, is putting the finishing touches to a new story of Highland life.

To their "Little Library" Messrs. Methuen are about to add the novels—"Marriage", "The Inheritance", and "Destiny"—of Miss Susan Ferrier, the versatile and witty Edinburgh lady whom Scott called his "sister shadow". "Marriage" will occupy two volumes, and is to appear next Thursday. A study of Miss Ferrier has been written by the Earl of Iddesleigh, and there will be an introduction and bibliographies by Miss Goodrich Freer. Next week Messrs. Methuen will also issue a new novel by Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne, "Mr. Horrocks, Purser" which describes the history of that gentleman together with many of the doings of Captain Kettle"; and "The Romance of Uptold Manor", by Mr. C. E. Denny. "Thoughts and Counsels of Many Years", by the venerable Archbishop Alexander, is a volume consisting of extracts in prose and verse selected by the Rev. J. H. Burn from the writings of the primate of all Ireland, with a preface by the archbishop.

Mr. William Heinemann has an attractive array of forthcoming volumes. Taking the fiction first, there is a new novel, "Scarlet and Hyssop", in which Mr. E. F. Benson deals in some detail with "the parasites of modern society". This book was to have been called "The Lepers". Mr. Harding Davis has written a novel of murder, mystery, and detective work in London; it is called "In the Fog". Then we are promised an essay in fiction—"The Story of Eden"—by a new writer, a lady, who has chosen to be known as Dolf Wyllarde. She has selected Cape Town as the scene but love rather than war as the theme of her story. Delayed by the indisposition of the author, Mr. Iwan Müller's "Lord Milner: his Life and Work" is to appear in March. Mr. Müller is under-

stood to be the first writer to have had access to the private papers of the late Sir Bartle Frere, and his work, which will form a sort of companion to Mr. Fitzpatrick's "Transvaal", will have special reference to the question of South African settlement. Mr. Heinemann also promises the first English translation of the verbatim Latin text of the evidence taken down at the trial and rehabilitation of Joan of Arc; a work on "The Philippines and the Pacific" by Mr. Archibald Colquhoun; Vol. II. of Dr. Brandes' "Main Currents of the Eighteenth Century" dealing with "The Romantic School in Germany"; and a new French English—English French Dictionary.

Messrs. Smith Elder have nearly ready "Gentleman Garnet, a tale of Old Tasmania", by Mr. Harry B. Vogel; "Nora Lester", a novel by Miss Anna Howarth the scene of which is laid in South Africa; and a novel "Nicholas Holbrook" by Miss Olive Birrell.

Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co. are making progress with their "Temple Bible". To Vol. XV.—"Isaiah"—which is nearly ready, pathetic interest attaches. It was edited by the late Dr. A. B. Davidson. Among other forthcoming publications by Messrs. Dent may be mentioned "Love's Cradle", a volume of essays by Mr. Thomas Newbigging; "Desiderio", a novel of the time of Dante by Mr. Edmund G. Gardiner, who now makes his first effort in fiction; "The Passing of Scyld", a volume of Icelandic poems by E. E. Kellert; and a primer of physiology by Dr. Alex. Hill. At the beginning of March, taking advantage of the recent growth of interest in rural life and character, Messrs. Dent will begin the publication of a new high-class illustrated monthly to be called "The Country". Messrs. Dent have also in hand for early publication a volume of SATURDAY REVIEW "Middles" to be called "Recreations and Reflections".

Messrs. Duckworth will this month commence a "Greenback Library of New Fiction" with a volume entitled "Twenty-Six Men and a Girl" by Maxim Gorky.

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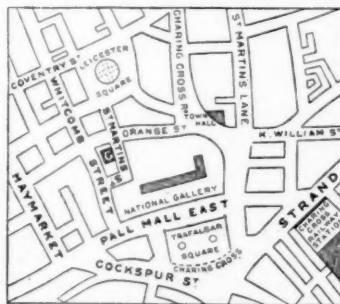
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been reduced by from 25 to 40 per cent., why should there not be some security for what is left? Take a holding of "undoubted commercial letting value" which has been already reduced from £50 to £35 rent, Mr. Gordon would force the landlord to take £490 (14 years' purchase). On a settled estate, this money can only be invested now at from 3 to 3½ per cent., which would not give him £15 in one case, and only £17 in the other. May I ask how the "interest of the landowner is safeguarded" in such cases. Take half the above results in figures, when 7 is the number of years' purchase, as suggested by Mr. Gordon, and you have his proposal reduced to an absurdity, or applying it to a rent of £4, reduced by the Courts to £3, you have the purchase money £21, which invested as before would give 12s., or possibly 14s., as the "safeguarded interest of the landowner". He says that the figures he gives are quoted "to show that the working of a compulsory land-purchase scheme does not necessarily involve either injustice or extravagance, but on the contrary, while it would be of immense advantage to the tenants, it would in the main benefit the proprietors". Scotchmen are proverbial for not seeing a joke at once; but I hope on reconsideration of his panacea for the regeneration of Ireland, he will see that his humour would be "no joke" for Irish proprietors. But Mr. Gordon goes on to say that "there is no more competent tribunal in the world than the Land Commission, which possesses all the necessary machinery in the most perfect form for effecting a just and expeditious transference of the land from one set of owners to another". And again "Why litigation should be necessary at any stage of the proceedings is not apparent". I know one case of sale to tenants in the North of Ireland, on a most favourably situated estate, and it took seven years before it was completed. It is not "litigations", so much as "law's delays" which are the real bar to expedition. All experience of the sale of land, from the "Encumbered Estates Courts" of former times to the more recent "Purchase Acts", shows the great difficulty of getting through more than 2 or 3 millions' worth of property in a year. Mr. Gordon has not the remotest idea of the time required for investigating the title of both landlord and tenant, the inspections and mappings of farms, &c., though if he will only refresh his memory by reading the "unanimous" Report of the Fry Commission, signed by himself, he will find it all there. I will take only one example out of many which I could adduce, and that is the case of quit or Crown rents. In England the Quit Rent Office has power to apportion quit rents as the Land Commission apportion tithe rents here, the cost of which is a mere trifle—but in Ireland quit rents being payable under old patents, it is most difficult now to identify the lands now liable to them, and yet no estate can be sold till this is ascertained, that is to say, no vendor can get his money till all possible charges are cleared off. These rents are mostly payable out of large tracts of lands, which from time to time within the last few hundred years have been divided amongst many different proprietors, and in these subdivisions some proprietors in settling their estates have charged these quit rents on part and freed the rest, and so it happens that on many estates no such rents have been paid for 60 or 100 years. Here comes the present mode of procedure; should the proprietor of such estate proceed to sell now, he may and does find that a town land is certified by the Quit Rent Office to be liable for rent, in conjunction with a whole barony now held by a different proprietor. The vendor has to get from that office an order for exclusive charge or for apportionment. The solicitor having charge of the sale has to procure the Ordnance maps for the entire lands subject to this quit rent, though they mostly belong to another proprietor. He has to lodge these maps in the Government Valuation Office, and there take out an attested copy of the Government valuation of the entire premises, and has to have the lands liable marked on the maps. He has then to ascertain the names and addresses of all the present owners of the land liable to the quit rent, then a statement of facts has to be prepared and verified setting out all this information. This statement has then to be submitted in duplicate to the Land Commis-

sion, who send it on to the Quit Rent Office, who examine the security and if satisfied charge £1 for their consent. It has then to appear in Court again where notices have to be served on all the owners and affidavits have to be made proving the service. All the solicitors representing everybody concerned in this extraordinary but necessary routine get their costs and I refrain from following the case further, to save your valuable space. It is enough to drive one mad. In one case I know of, it took four solicitors, costs and all the endless delays above mentioned, to divide seventeen shillings of quit rent between adjacent proprietors, and the costs of one of the parties were over £14. This is only one small example of what Mr. Gordon, in his total ignorance of Irish matters, with which unfortunately we are only too familiar, considers "a competent tribunal", for "the expeditious transference of the land", and a case where he thinks "litigation" is quite unnecessary "at any stage of the proceedings".

I think I have now proved my first statement. I shall deal shortly with the other aspect of Mr. Gordon's letter. He says "In England and Scotland a compulsory Land Purchase Act would unquestionably entail such gross injustice that no Government would for a moment listen to such a proposal", and he bases this remarkable distinction on the difference in the conditions of ownership in those countries and in Ireland. There is no difference in the ownership of the fee simple of land in either country. The fact that the landlord makes certain improvements in England and charges rent on those improvements does not make such a marked distinction from the Irish case stated by him, supposing it to be universally true which it is not, where the improvements are made by the tenant but no rent charged on them by the landlord. All the rent the tenant pays in either case is rent on the landlord's property or part of the property, with the great advantage to the English or Scotch landlord that he can ask what rent he likes, whereas the Irish landlord can only get what rent the Land Courts allow him, and that rent is fixed by valuers, nine-tenths of whom are themselves tenant farmers. The least he is now entitled to is some sort of security for the portion of his rent which remains without being robbed of its capital value, and Mr. Gordon may rest assured that the principles of land legislation adopted in Ireland are certain in time to be applied to England and Scotland, and that what he considers would be "gross injustice" in those countries, we consider would be "barefaced robbery" in Ireland.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ANTHONY TRAILL, LL.D.

Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

P.S.—I observe that Mr. Gordon has fallen into another error which has been constantly promulgated by Mr. T. W. Russell in his violent tirades against landlords. He says "Until recently the proprietors in Ireland paid one-half of the poor rates, the tenants paying the other half along with all other public and parochial burdens; while the proprietors, having by a recent grant been relieved of that single item of taxation, now pay nothing towards either rates or equipment of holdings, and therefore enjoy the full rental of their property without any deduction". This shows a wonderful amount of ignorance of the state of affairs here. In the first instance the Act that exempted the landlords from half poor rate, also exempted the tenants from half county cess, and as the cess is generally double the poor rate, the tenants got a much larger benefit from that Act than the landlords. But further the landlord is only exempted from poor rates on land, but he has now to pay poor rates on the tenants' houses and offices which he had not to pay before, and this is especially hard because the tenants now pay no rent on these buildings or on their own improvements. Besides all this, when the Land Commissioners are fixing the judicial rents, they make reductions on account of the rates paid by the tenants, so that in the long run the average of all these charges falls on the landlords and not on the tenants.

A. T.

TO GEORGE MEREDITH

(On his Seventy-fourth Birthday).

THIS time, dear friend—this time my birthday greeting

Comes heavy of funeral tears—I think of you,
And say, "Tis evening with him—that is true—
But evening bright as noon, if faster fleeting ;
Still he is spared—while Spring and Winter, meeting,
Clasp hands around the roots 'neath frozen dew—
To see the 'Joy of Earth' break forth anew,
And hear it on the hill-side warbling, bleating".

Love's remnant melts and melts ; but, if our days
Are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, still,
Still Winter has a sun—a sun whose rays
Can set the young lamb dancing on the hill,
And set the daisy, in the woodland ways,
Dreaming of her who brings the daffodil.

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REVIEWS.

MR. KIDD THE CHEAP PHILOSOPHER.

"Principles of Western Civilisation." By Benjamin Kidd. London: Macmillan. 1902. 15s. net.

THIS is a book with some of whose conclusions so far as we "dimly perceive" them, to use a perpetually recurring phrase used by Mr. Kidd himself, we have much sympathy. And yet we have never read a book whose form, and arguments, and style were less satisfactory, convincing, or pleasant. It is uncouth, pretentious, long-winded, amorphous, irritating. Mr. Kidd seems to think that it is expected of him to write ponderous books, and that he must live up to a supposed reputation as the profound exponent of a social philosophy. He has an altogether exaggerated sense of the value of his productions, and he feels bound to maintain his conception of his own importance by using the most inflated, bombastic and turgid style that was ever used by mortal man. It is impossible for him to say anything simply and to make a plain statement. Everything is said in tragedy tones ; and he can hardly tell you that two and two make four without calling attention to the extraordinary character of the discovery, and shouting out that only the evolutionist after prolonged attention to the essential elements of the problem, which at first sight are obscured by the stream of tendency which begins at length to emerge into the light—or something like that—could have possibly discovered it. We shall never see the word evolutionist again without a shudder as we recall his portentous solemnity, his persistent button-holing of you while he expatiates on the obvious, his involved sentences, which he must intend as specimens of primeval prose at an extremely early stage of development, and his air of showman and cicerone who shows his cheap curiosities so as to remind us ludicrously of the Italian guide who introduced Mark Twain to the mummy of Cristoforo Colombo.

The book might have been kept within half the length by merely cutting down verbose repetitions and mechanical phrasings which serve no purpose but to worry and bore the reader. Mr. Kidd's method is to declaim rhetorically at the beginning of a paragraph on the vast importance of some matter which he is about to explain. Before you quite gather what he is aiming at he has taken you a steeplechase over a succession of formidable verbal hurdles and water-jumps which dislocate all the bones of your mind, and you are not in a condition to appreciate the fact, if fact it is, that you have arrived anywhere in particular. Then he states the proposition he wishes to improve your mind with, and thereupon begins a rhetorical peroration modelled on the lines of the exordium. By the time you have got to this point you are wondering what it is all about. He is always beginning again : every new paragraph opens as if it

were the beginning of a formal essay, and he continues marking time so persistently that "you begin to dimly perceive" something of the real effect of that slow process by which the meaning of nature and history has been kept back so long until Mr. Kidd could arrive to discover and reveal it. That may be the author's art as "we now begin to see, and as it at last reveals itself to the prolonged and profound study of the evolutionist"—we cannot say this more than once—but that is the only suggestion of literary art or skill in the book. If it is, the book is a veritable poem of evolution and a work of creative imagination in which the ghastly forms of split infinitives rear their horrid heads through the tenebrous air. Even that view of it, however, would not prevent it from being tedious, and Mr. Kidd's popularity is a remarkable fact. There is no doubt we suppose that the book will be largely read, and very much admired, in numberless domestic circles where the good folks are very serious, very earnest, and "trembling on the verge", as Mr. Kidd's stream of tendency has a habit of doing, of orthodoxy and heterodoxy in religion and morals, but where their taste in literature is somewhat crude and their criticism very ingenuous and untrained. They are the people who love to read this kind of philosophy for very much the same reason that makes three well-known writers of fiction whom we need not name—we will only say that we do not include Mr. Wells—their great favourites. There is an air of grandiose mystery about the books. They are a sort of pot-pourri of theology, science, philosophy, history, sociology popularised into something with an "earnest moral purpose" and therefore adapted for the consumption of the reading masses whom fiction and poetry do not please as art, and who could not understand the processes of thought in serious science, philosophy, history or sociology. Their fiction and their serious reading must be a blend of the cheap and meretricious in literature, and in what Mr. Kidd would be sure to call the "antithesis", if he did not call it the "antinomy", of literature. But in addition to this Mr. Kidd has discovered what a vast interest everybody is taking, or is about to take, in what Mr. Wells has made known as the science or discovery of the future. Mr. Bellamy by a device of fiction looked backward in order to forecast the future : Mr. Wells with more science looks forward and makes his guess at the future : and now Mr. Kidd comes and with his "tyranny of the past" "the subordination of the present to the future" and his "Projection of Proficiency into the future" philosophises the whole thing in the style we have described.

That of course is exactly the kind of thing to catch the eye and ear of the Reading Room public ; and "Principles of Western Civilisation" is a sufficiently mouth-filling title to suffuse a sense of complacent priggishness over the serious young man whose portrait adorns the entrance to Exeter Hall, or who is represented elsewhere deep in the study of the Cyclopædia of Universal History whose hundred or so pictured volumes surround him. We were going to remark that we are surprised at Mr. Kidd's style, if he wishes to impress his views on the public and keep up his reputation as our popular philosopher ; but perhaps he is aware that his hierophantic utterances are precisely what the public expect from its philosophers. He certainly cannot be taken seriously by competent judges so long as he enwraps himself in the pompous phraseology of the lady spiritualist medium from America who can be heard unrolling the future on Sunday evenings at Steinway Hall. He may have learned evolution from Darwin, and Spencer, and Huxley, though the limitations of his masters are painful to their disciple, since they have not, as he, discovered that "the centre of the world's and the individual's history" is "projected into the future" and that we have reached a stage in our upward progress in which the past can be neglected, and the present hardly worth considering. But he has not learned the secret of their style which was simple, direct, sincere, unpretentious, lucid ; and the style is the man, expressing the quality and value of his thought. There is no pose in these men, and you know it from their style. Who can fail to admire the delightful simplicity and

limpidity of Darwin's writing even though he is dealing with the most elusive or complicated facts? When Mr. Spencer's technical vocabulary is understood (it is not redundant and unnecessary as is so much of Mr. Kidd's commonplace phrasing copied from cheap and banal current sociological productions) his writing has no difficulties not inherent in the nature of his subject. And we are sure that many who, not being trained in science, learned the new connexion of science with life and society from the clear and cultivated though popular style of Huxley, and admired it for its literary merit, will regard Mr. Kidd with impatience though he may be treating of subjects in which they would naturally be interested.

We said at the beginning that we agreed with some of Mr. Kidd's conclusions. Why should we not? It is not difficult to believe that the present industrial and economic conditions with their social results will not bear examination by the intellect and conscience, and that this "tyranny of the present" will be subjugated in the interests of the future some time in the future. That is the gist of the nearly one hundred pages which Mr. Kidd in that feebly picturesque style which is so irritating entitled "Towards the Future". The idea he labours so persistently is that in every age of the world until within recent years, society has been under the tyranny of the present generations whose interests were organised in and maintained by the State, and there has been no force at work to protect the more important interests of the future. The future was wholly sacrificed to the present before Christianity introduced the ideas of moral responsibility and of issues in the future. There is a familiar half-truth in this, but Mr. Kidd immensely overdoes the emphasis he lays on it. Christianity did extend the ideas of sacrifice of interests in the present to the future. But the sacrifices made for military efficiency in pagan society were the same in principle, and especially so were the changes by which the exclusiveness of the old State life was broken down. What does it matter whether we call the changes which present dissatisfaction may be introducing into a state a struggle of the present with the past, or the subordination of the present to the future? Nothing at all; it is all the same thing and yet the whole of Mr. Kidd's book is founded on this supposed extraordinary discovery. It must be noted that in spite of Christianity there was no realisation of the importance of the future until "the evolutionist" found it out, not by original readings in Darwin but in his follower Weismann. It is not in Spencer; it is not anywhere except in "Principles of Western Civilisation". Evolution theories of this kind are wholly unnecessary and only give opportunity for the evolutionist to bore one. Mr. Kidd makes his best point in the whole book when he shows that Kant's insistence on the transcendental element in the human mind is a better explanation of the dissatisfaction which results in progress than the historical explanations of Spencer, or the meagre philosophy of the Utilitarians. And yet this very reference cuts down all Mr. Kidd's book to very small dimensions. If this idealism is the basis of progress, then as a constituent of human nature it must have always been operative. And it does explain progress where progress takes place; but as Mr. Kidd seems to think that by means of it he has solved the question which Sir Henry Maine considered almost inexplicable of the difference between progressive and non-progressive nations, then we beg leave to say he has done nothing of the kind. We agree with him readily in what he says about the Utilitarians and the Manchester School, but it is not much use going on flogging them now they are dead. If Mr. Kidd had not taken himself so seriously we should not have taken him so seriously; but as he has tempted us to do so, we say seriously that the book is a mere brutum fulmen.

"THE INCARNATION OF ATTORNEYISM."

"Robespierre: a Study." By Hilaire Belloc. London: Nisbet. 1901. 16s.

ANOTHER book on the Revolution from Mr. Belloc is a thing to receive with thanks. For he is both an Englishman and a Frenchman, he knows his facts

and he has the gift of words. He is thus naturally fitted to interpret for us the thought and character of the revolutionary leaders; and he wisely regards interpretation, not the discovery of fresh matter, as his task. He understands Paris, place and people, and he feels with the men who went through the great storm as an historian of the Revolution should. He believes in the Revolution; he believes in France; he believes in the Republic. And fortunately he also believes in, and so understands, the Church:—how fully it is no affair of ours to ascertain, but at least fully enough to save him from the vulgar anti-Christian prejudice, that spoils so much Republican history, and to give him a clue to Robespierre's attitude towards religious things. To say that his dramatic instinct is acute might serve to damn him for those who fear the distortion of history by the dramatic spirit; but to our thinking it is his chief merit. Laborious study of documents, the piling up of material, have almost done their work for the age of the Revolution; and the time has come to begin again the dramatic treatment. For there is no escape for the historian—still less for the biographer—from the insistent call to know and make known those shifting dreams and fears of the lone leaders, those mixed passions of the mobs on the pavement or on the benches of the parliaments, which are the very stuff of the Revolution; and to do this he must have something of the dramatist's touch of living men. It was because Carlyle had this touch that his book, which purists say is not history, contains ten times as much truth as most other books ten times as learned.

Your scientific and objective historian too often dreads his own imagination, if he has one, and in fear lest he should call to life a man who never was calls nothing to life at all, and leads you into a bloodless world of "forces" and "tendencies", where the parties are all legibly ticketed and each individual is at best supplied with some one neat character-formula, by which all his actions are to be explained. Mr. Belloc is not very scientific and he is anything but objective. Indeed there is so much of himself in his book, and he is so much more interesting a personality than Robespierre, that he cannot blame us if we write of him as well as of his "hero". Mr. Belloc, we say it advisedly, is of the race of the great partisans—Michelets, Carlyles, Mommsens—who write the live histories and get criticised by the judicious. Very fortunately he cannot take sides with Robespierre. This distresses him so much that he is always looking away from that neat, methodic, pedantic and bloodless creature with its "jejune, persistent, mind" to his old hero Danton or to St. Just, who will, we hope, be the subject of his next study. "Now that the work is over", he writes in his preface, "I could almost wish that instead of wandering in such a desert it had been my task to follow St. Just and the wars, and to revive the memories of forgotten valour". We can assure him that his strength has not been wasted; that his attempt "to explain Robespierre imperfectly" is as nearly successful as such a thing can be. If Mr. Belloc had loved Robespierre he might have distorted his career; as things are, by doing violence to his own sympathies, he succeeds in understanding it.

The difficulty of his task is almost frightening. Robespierre is one of that tiny class of men for whom a neat character-formula can be found which will explain nearly the whole of him. If his biographer finds such a formula and rests content with it he will go astray, as Taine went astray when he tried to explain the Revolution and its chiefs by help of the formulas of a coarse realism. Taine's Robespierre is simple enough: he was a sham thing full of words, a sort of lay-figure with a phonograph in it that echoes Rousseau in its inhuman voice, a thing fit to stand in the midst of the stage during the performance of the "declamatory and artificial tragedy" of the Revolution, because it repeats over and over again the catchwords of the tragedy. Now a very brilliant book, that would be a great deal more than half true, could be written about such a creature; and if Mr. Belloc had not believed in the Revolution he might have written it. For the unreality of Robespierre oppresses him and renders him impatient; he is near to cursing him altogether and so failing to understand the whole of him. From this he is saved by

his own belief that Robespierre's dogmas were half-truths rather than mere words signifying nothing, and by the dramatic insight which enables him to see more in any man, however lean his soul, than can be fitted into one neat formula.

The main thesis of M. Belloc's interpretation of Robespierre's career is based on Taine's doctrine. It was not by successful intrigue, for Robespierre was a wretched plotter, not by personal hypocrisy or by hypocritical flattering of popular prejudice that he won the reputation which lifted him up above his fellows. He rose because of his early, absolute, and abnormal faith in those political doctrines which were to be the creed of '93; he became a symbol, a standard, round which men rallied not for its own worth but for the sake of that which it represented. From the first "under that grotesquely petty surface, and fixed into this common spirit, there lay the certitudes upon whose display the people would one day insist, as upon relics or gems, till they come to worship the man who always wore them as the unique furniture of his mind". It was not until his position was won—according to Mr. Belloc's reading—until he was made a member of the Convention of '92, that the first temptings of an unworthy personal ambition began that stretching of his principles, that growing self-deception, by which he passed into sin. And to the end his principles ruled him. For four hours on the last night of his life, when his friends and adherents were ready to fight for him, "he stopped the advance of time with debate, disputing the strict right of insurrection, doubting it, demanding persuasion".

We cannot accept all Mr. Belloc's interpretations, much as we value his services as interpreter. But his work hangs so well together that little is gained by traversing some sections of his argument superficially. On one question only is it necessary to speak—he has not made really clear his own view as to the relation of Robespierre to the rest of the Committee of Public Safety in the summer of 1794. He contradicts himself somewhat. He denies that Robespierre was master of the Committee and through the Committee of France—denies it with strong words. So far we agree. But we do not agree with the opinion constantly implied and sometimes plainly stated, that the real direction of affairs rested with those members of the Committee whom Mr. Belloc, following earlier writers, dubs "the workers", and that these men deliberately used Robespierre's prestige as a veil behind which they might work in their own way undisturbed. We think he is nearer the truth when, earlier in the book, he speaks of the way in which Robespierre "impressed and directed" the Great Committee of Public Safety. "We will believe"—to adopt a phrase with which Mr. Belloc likes to introduce contentious propositions—that he exaggerates the cohesion of the Committee and underrates the power of Robespierre, a power which rested on that leadership of the Jacobins and of the Convention which Mr. Belloc himself fully recognises.

As a literary craftsman Mr. Belloc—here one is tempted to write M. Belloc—stands in a class apart. As often as not he thinks in French. Whole pages of his book could be turned into French as they stand; and very vigorous French it would be. As English it is vigorous enough; for although there is French thought in plenty there is not much French idiom, and the unfamiliarity and unexpectedness of the language give it power. Only here and there are sentences to be found which are French in every way. One of these is worth quoting: Mr. Belloc is occupied with the parting between Lebas and his wife and he says—"they did not meet again; for in the night this man, whose simple and republican mind compels me to admiration as I write, gave himself death". No Englishman could have written that. At its best Mr. Belloc's style has all the spring of fine French historical prose. His imagination is of the highest order; his similes are never taken from the thumbed stock. Only very rarely does the full stream of his words and conceits overbear his judgment and make a wordy bog.

LORD CARNARVON AND HIS EDITOR.

"Speeches on Canada by the Fourth Earl of Carnarvon." Edited by Sir Robert Herbert. London: Murray. 1902. 7s. 6d. net.

LORD CARNARVON was one of the best two of the Colonial Secretaries of the Victorian Era. He had sympathy with the ideals of Greater Britain, he was keen to promote colonial progress and colonial dignity, and the mistakes he made were due to inability to devise means to the end he kept in view. His speeches may be read to-day with advantage by those who know the history of the Empire reasonably well, and the present volume will certainly find a place on the shelf, happily more common now than in his time, devoted to works of colonial interest. Lord Carnarvon as a statesman was not inspired, but he was so profoundly moved by contemplation of the "magnificence" of the imperial fabric, in the government of which he lent a hand, that he often started enthusiasm in others. Twenty-five years ago Imperialism was almost a new word in connexion with the relations of Great Britain and her colonies. What is Imperialism? asked Lord Carnarvon in 1878. At what does it aim? His answer may stand for all time. The object, the duty, of Imperialism he said "is to breathe into the whole of that mighty mass a common unity". Since 1878 Imperialism has moved apace along the lines indicated by Lord Carnarvon.

Whilst however we are glad to have these speeches, mainly Canadian, we cannot commend the manner in which Sir Robert Herbert has discharged the not very onerous task of collecting them and presenting them to the world. His introduction is an exaggerated estimate of Lord Carnarvon's work. The British North America Act of 1867 demanded little more than tact and sympathy with the federal aspirations of the Canadian provinces: the measure was not Lord Carnarvon's and he merely piloted it through the House of Lords, after conference with the Canadian delegates. Sir Robert Herbert thinks if Lord Carnarvon had been alive he would have offered "many valuable suggestions" to the framers of the Australian Commonwealth Act, and would have been full of resource, if he had taken part in "a second and successful effort" to federate South Africa. It is a little unfortunate for Sir Robert Herbert's estimate that the one instance in which Lord Carnarvon took the federal initiative resulted in fiasco. It was not Lord Carnarvon's fault perhaps but the fact remains. Lord Carnarvon did enough to entitle him to gratitude: unqualified eulogy cannot obliterate his limitations.

The truth is Sir Robert Herbert is not a safe guide in Colonial matters, his long years in the Colonies and at the Colonial Office notwithstanding. His table of Canadian history prefixed to this book would have made Lord Carnarvon's—not Macaulay's—schoolboy blush. He says Quebec was "discovered by S. Cabot 1497"; "S. Cabot" with his father John, touched the coast of Labrador in that year; Quebec was not discovered till Cartier found his way up the S. Lawrence in 1535. As Cartier did not reach Quebec till that year it was certainly not "annexed by France 1525". Nor was Nova Scotia "colonised by France in 1598" as Sir Robert imagines, but in 1603 when de Monts founded Port Royal now Annapolis. We should be sorry for the student of colonial history who might take his dates from the late Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

NOVELS.

"The Alien: a Story of Middle Age." By F. F. Montrésor. London: Methuen. 1901. 6s.

A somewhat puzzling preface in this case masks a book very well worth the reading. Miss Montrésor shows in "The Alien" a gift not unlike Mrs. Oliphant's of revealing a woman's character in conventional surroundings. The comparison is naturally suggested by a faint likeness between two figures in "The Cuckoo in the Nest" and the present novel, but Miss Montrésor has her own point of view, and her own way of saying things. The Alien of the story is a fine study: a man capable of greatness, with a cynical view of life, an adventurous mischievousness, and a complete absence

of conscience as generally understood among the orthodox. His past love-story—only described by a few touches—is an episode of very uncommon pathos. The clash of characters is ably realised throughout, and we are given a lifelike picture of a sharp-tongued old lady with a past concealed but not regretted, and—perhaps this is a higher test—a woman in early middle-age who had lost her lover in youth and lived for years as companion to her trying kinswoman is made profoundly interesting. There is a beautiful sketch, not overdrawn, of an old blind clergyman, and the most minor characters fill their places successfully. The story moves for a moment to Venezuela, but is enacted chiefly in a quiet English village. It is thoroughly good work, and we hope that its charm will not be overlooked in this bustling age.

"Barbara West." By Keighley Snowden. London: Long. 1901. 6s.

Mr. Snowden seems to have the gift of writing in an interesting way about people who would be bores as casual travelling companions and compel suicide as intimates. We have perhaps had enough in fiction of the reporting staff of provincial journals, a theme treated in one of Mr. Barrie's least successful novels, but the fact remains that half-educated young men in North of England manufacturing towns have in the last resort a great deal to do with the course of British policy, and the philosophic historian who is perplexed by such events as the wave of Liberal enthusiasm that brought Mr. Gladstone into power in 1880 may perhaps get some help from "Barbara West". The novel is in no sense a political one, but a keen and sympathetic study of a typical corner of Yorkshire. We meet narrowness, shrewdness, desire to learn up to a certain point, honesty of purpose, and independent feeling coupled with anxiety to imitate the ways of social superiors who are themselves bad models. It is easy to summarise hastily our lower middle classes, but the task of making them live in a book demands somewhat unusual qualities. As a love story "Barbara West" is a trifle feeble in execution, but it is perhaps true tragedy of a kind to send an irritatingly young-ladyish, affected, well-meaning girl to a miserable fate. The ruin of a fool may be made pathetic, but the events in this story do not seem inevitable. The book shows distinct promise.

"Joe Wilson and his Mates." By Henry Lawson. London: Blackwood. 1901. 6s.

Is it giving the race of reviewers away to say that there are books of short stories which are on occasion gauged by the reading of one story only? At all events, Mr. Lawson offers to his critics no such temptation. The reader of one of these stories of Australian Bushmen will read another. That is not to say that there is no fault either in the method or the manner of the book. There is every reason why an author should not criticise the characters of his creations as Mr. Lawson does in "The Writer wants to say a Word"—an interpolation in the middle of the volume. His creations should speak for themselves. Nor is the manner faultless. There are certain grubby details of human life, neither immoral nor anywhere near it, which nobody wants to see in print. But these defects jar only now and then: on the whole, Mr. Lawson is as convincing as he is undoubtedly possessed of humour and pathos. If one very short story were to be singled out for commendation it would perhaps be "The Loaded Dog"—a puppy rejoicing over a loaded miner's cartridge. But the keynote of the book is to be found in "Water them Geraniums". "They had a sense of the ridiculous, those poor sun-dried Bushwomen. I fancy that helped to save them from madness." That sentence, applied to the male relations of Bushwomen also, fairly well sums up the book.

"Visiting the Sin." By Emma Rayner. London: Putnams. 1901. 6s.

It is quite probable that the average reader, seeing the single word "Rayner" under the title on the cover of this book, might read to the last page under the impression that the story was written by a man. He might or might not be wrong: at all events on further investigation he would discover that "Rayner" was

preceded by "Emma", and he might wonder how it ever happened that to one of what may be called the non-sawing sex—the book is concerned with wood-choppers—there was revealed so much of the inner life of such men as form the chief characters in "A Tale of Mountain Life in Kentucky and Tennessee" of thirty years ago. There is some excellent work in this book. To the description of the visitation of "the sin" upon the son of Kennedy Poteet, a dead Kentucky trader supposed to have been a murderer and perhaps more, the author has devoted no inconsiderable pains and talent. But the story is not entirely satisfying. The author plays with two of his puppets, particularly Abner Poteet and Naomi Mozingo—girlish, vindictive and beautiful—rather cruelly, until the reader begins to centre his hopes upon a happy ending for all. He will be partly disappointed. Still, the disappointment is only partial; the book as a whole is sound and original.

"Captain Bluit." By "Max Adeler" (Charles Heber Clarke). London: Ward, Lock. 1901. 6s.

"Captain Bluit" might be shortly, but a trifle unfairly, described as a somewhat purposeless continuation of "Out of the Hurly-burly" with the notorious epitaphs omitted. After traversing its 450 pages, wherein sentimentality struggles gamely with genuine humour, one sighs for Willie and his purple monkey climbing up a yellow stick. Here are no purple monkeys; the nearest thing to them is a bogus Indian prince (prophetically like the impostor who humbugged one London paper and the Transatlantic public a month or two ago). When Max Adeler keeps to the oddities of American village life he is very nearly as good as ever, but his incursion into the region of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" does not exhilarate, and his young hero has an indefinable air of dry goods. However there are shrewd criticisms of the great American doctrine that anybody who is less vulgar than his neighbours is transgressing against Republican ideals, and the scene in which a schoolmaster is heckled by a board of village politicians is graphic. The story, such as it is, has no construction, and if it is read will be read for the digressions. It is of an obsolete manner—though perhaps it is none the worse for that—and vaguely recalls the novels of the late Albert Smith.

"His Own Ghost." By David Christie Murray. London: Chatto and Windus. 1902. 3s. 6d.

Mr. Murray does not seem to have realised that even so unambitious a piece of literature as a "shocker" requires to be thought out in advance. He has contented himself with collecting the usual ingredients: a diamond valley in Africa, a gang of desperadoes, some detectives, a bank manager, a false funeral, a long lost uncle, &c. Having mixed these up in his mind and borrowed the most familiar tricks of sensational writers, he proceeds to tell a story, which abounds in exciting situations but has neither coherence nor plausibility, nor beginning nor end. The reader is kept open-mouthed for some pages, then he grows impatient, is presently wearied, and loses himself in disappointment. Mr. Murray is evidently proud of his new device for concealing the secret of the treasure. It certainly sounds ingenious to hide a sentence in a batch of chess-problems, the positions of the black king to afford the consecutive letters. But in practice it is cumbersome and unnecessary.

NAVAL HISTORY, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ROYAL TOUR.

"A Sailor of King George. The Journals of Captain Frederick Hoffman, R.N., 1793-1814." Edited by A. Beckford Bevan and H. B. Woolryche Whitmore. London: Murray. 1901. 12s. net.

The early naval career of Frederick Hoffman was largely spent in the West Indies, and his account of these islands vividly recalls the incidents narrated in "Tom Cringle's Log". He was present at the reduction of Martinique in 1794 by a combined naval and military force under Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis. When a lieutenant of some years' standing he was appointed to the "Tonnant", and served in her at the battle of Trafalgar. His account of that action is confined to the

part played by his own ship, but it shows the spirit with which Nelson animated those under his command from captain to powder-monkey, and the "Tonnant's" record is not singular for that day. One interesting point as regards preparations for this action comes out. Hoffman says "All our ships' sides were ordered to be painted yellow with black streaks, and the masts yellow". In pictures of Trafalgar the ships are not usually so coloured. In the glory of victory we lose sight of the sufferings of the wounded afterwards. They were terrible after Trafalgar, owing to the gale which sprang up. Hoffman recounts how in his ship twelve out of fourteen amputations of leg or arm proved fatal, owing to the motion of the ship. These gallant fellows however made light of their injuries. One captain of a gun having lost a great toe continued serving his gun until it was disabled, and then went to another refusing to go below to the doctor. He wished, he said, to give the enemy a few more hard pills before he had done with them. Another poor fellow, who had just had his leg amputated, hearing cheering on deck as another ship struck her colours, could not resist joining in. This exertion caused the arteries to break out afresh and before they could be taken up again he died.

"With the Royal Tour." By E. F. Knight. London: Longmans. 1902. 5s.

Four newspaper representatives were permitted to accompany the Prince and Princess of Wales on their Colonial tour. It is therefore possible to estimate the number of volumes which may be expected on the subject. The Prince himself is reported to be engaged on an official record, and each of the four privileged pressmen must, of course, put his own impressions into book form. Whether the commander of the "Ophir" will think himself called upon to publish his log we shall know in due time. Recently we referred to Mr. Maxwell's reproduced articles from the "Standard", this week it is the turn of Mr. E. F. Knight of the "Morning Post". If these books are read—and they are not without interest—the people at home who are so often chided with their ignorance of matters colonial must become well informed concerning even commonplace things in the colonies. Mr. Knight admits that the tour was too hurried to permit him to make a very close study of colonial problems, but that he is a keen observer is clear from one passage in his introduction; or has the evil become so obvious that it cannot escape the most casual of visitors? Referring to pro-Boerism at home, he says "the frame of mind of our closet-traitors" is incomprehensible to the colonist. "In Canada more especially where unfortunately so much of the news published in the local papers comes from tainted American sources, people are inclined, not unnaturally, to take an exaggerated view of the magnitude and importance of the noisy widely-advertised pro-Boer movement and to wonder if there be some truth in what the enemies of Great Britain so frequently assert, namely, that the Empire is rotten at its core, that the little island nation is no longer strong, honest or brave enough to direct the destinies of the Empire." There is nothing in Mr. Knight's book of more serious significance than this brief allusion to the Americanising of the Canadian press news—a subject to which we drew attention some weeks ago.

"With Steyn and De Wet." By Philip Pienaar. London: Methuen. 1902. 3s. 6d.

Mr. Pienaar's reminiscences of the war are of considerable interest and coming from one who fought with the Boers will throw no small light on some incidents in the campaign. Mr. Pienaar belonged to the Transvaal telegraph service and his experience was of great service to the Boers, for he not only served them by despatching their messages but successfully tapped more than one wire along which British commanders were sending messages of vital importance. Mr. Pienaar saw a good deal of fighting but his military career was ingloriously ended by his arrest in Portuguese territory. He once had the proud privilege of shaking hands with Mr. Steyn, to whom alone he says in one place belongs the honour of the resistance still being offered by the Boers though in another he gives credit for it to De Wet and Steyn jointly. His book contains many miniature word-portraits of prominent men. "That incomprehensible man, Schalk Burger", is moody, uninspiring; De Wet, uncouth of manner, tactless and abrupt of speech, has a "habit of thrusting his tongue against his palate at every syllable" which does not lessen his "undeniable unattractiveness"; Louis Botha is "the pride of the army, the idol of his men, soldier and gentleman". Where we wonder did Mr. Pienaar acquire his mastery of a quite respectable literary style? His English is excellent.

"The Guide to South Africa." Edited annually by A. Samler Brown and G. Gordon Brown. Ninth edition, for 1901-2. London: Sampson Low. 2s. 6d.

We have had occasion more than once before to recommend Mr. Samler Brown's "Guide to South Africa". The latest edition has all the merits of its predecessors. Anyone who intends to settle in South Africa—and we hope that there are many young Englishmen who have already formed this resolve—could not do better than take Mr. Samler Brown's book as a supplement to "The New South Africa" by Mr. Bleloch. Mr. Samler Brown's guide is an ingenious combination of

"Baedeker" and "Silver". The present edition has been brought up to date so far as circumstances permit; but Mr. Samler Brown warns his readers that he cannot guarantee all his coaches and trains to run up to their advertised time. On the other hand he has given us an outline of the progress of the war up to the date of publication, and coloured the whole of South Africa red in his numerous and useful maps.

ITALIAN LITERATURE.

Capo d'Anno: Pagine Parlate. By Edmondo de Amicis. Milan: Treves. 1902. Lire 4.

In this book of lectures we once more have Signor de Amicis at his very best. It is essentially light literature, but light literature which is good, which has style, which has humour and feeling, and that is a rarity in modern Italy's output. And as a stranger we most heartily bid it welcome. In the chapter on "Eloquenza Conviviale" we have the happiest sketch of every style of post-prandial orator; in the chapter on "Silvio Pellico" (most lovingly presented), on the Italian immigrants in Argentina (a moving picture), on the dour borderland forts of Mont Cenis (a vivid sketch of garrison pains and pleasures), we have the author in a vein of mingled humour and pathos which is peculiarly his own. There are humourists—or perhaps we should say entertaining writers—whom we read against duty as it were, calculating all the while the loss of time they entail. But de Amicis is not among these: his lessons, ever hopefully and brightly given and without a shade of pedantry, cause us to lay down his books with a sense of time well spent, and never fail to arouse the desire for something fresh from so vivid, sympathetic and charming a pen.

Nuovi Studi sul Genio. By Cesare Lombroso. Palermo: Sandron. 1901. Lire 3.

"But I don't want to go among mad people", Alice remarked. "Oh, you can't help that", said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad". "How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice. "You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here". Alice has summed up many a situation in the happiest fashion, and here she is, saving us all further review of the famous Professor Lombroso's last work, were we so minded. But just a word or two to let the reader know that the book is a species of appendix to the "Uomo di Genio" and the "Genio e Degenerazione". There is the same abundance of unpleasant matter relating to the lives of great men and their families, the same prominence assigned to epilepsy and criminal tendencies as determining factors in the world's inheritance of great deeds. Professor Lombroso lets his theory gallop away with him more wildly than ever. Many of the failings he finds in the great surely exist to an equal degree in the little. But there is much in a name. Manzoni once sent a book to a friend in a closed envelope, causing the recipient a heavy postal tax, and that is "amnesia", one of the characteristic signs of genius; we have known of many a similar incident and have denominated the cause carelessness or absent-mindedness, but then the culprits were all small fry. Columbus has a bad time of it at the hands of the great alienist; he is literally taken by the throat and shaken out of his senses. The humble mariner, we know, wrote a mongrel Latin in a shockingly bad hand, but not for that reason should we have called him epileptic but rather ignorant and unlettered. He expressly disclaims genius, and attributes his discovery of the New World to the Divine assistance: Professor Lombroso knows better—it was all "paranoic auto-suggestion". The same mysterious power has yet to force the North-West Passage and reach the Poles. Could not the famous anthropologist breed a supply of epileptics who would accomplish all the world's great desiderata? 'Twould be a mighty boon. Professor Lombroso is one of the most intensely clever, one of the most intensely interesting personalities of modern Italy, and unquestionably has genius. We confess to a mischievous desire to set some budding young Lombroso on to watch the mental specialist in his everyday life. The result, we venture to think, would be to prove him, on his own theory, the greatest of living geniuses. He who scoffs at the visions of saints has become a convert to modern spiritualism, the mere dupe of vulgar mediums, and a writer in a recent number of the "Giornale d'Italia" (23 January) tells us that the Professor admits to having heard a spirit voice. Without question our hypothetical investigator would be able to add a further very thrilling appendix to the "Uomo di Genio".

Socrate (dall' Eulifrone): Scene Attiche di Giovanni Bovio. Turin: Roux. 1902. Lira 1.

Signor Bovio is better known to English readers as a stalwart member of the extreme left than as a playwright. This "Socrates" of his was recently produced in Rome and obtained a succès d'estime, due rather to the popularity of the author than the intrinsic merits of the play. The title is misleading. In the Euthyphron there are but two characters, and the subject of piety and impiety is threshed out at length with all the wealth of illustration, the subtle humour, the delicate irony, which are inseparably associated with Socrates. In Bovio's

book we have a crowd of characters, dragged in presumably for stage purposes. Meletus himself is introduced, and he is a very different Meletus from our old friend of the *Apology*. Euthyphron plays but a small part in the dialogue, and his discussion of piety with Socrates is hurried and scrappy. By a process of auto-suggestion (we have been reading Professor Lombroso who might perhaps have added "paranoic") we had visions of a fourth form boy set to write an epitome of the Euthyphron against time. When we say that Socrates is made to speak his last famous words about the cock to Æsculapius flippantly, almost cynically, and even before his trial has begun, no scholar will think that we have been unduly severe upon the play.

Poesie di Giosuè Carducci: 1850-1900. Bologna: Zanichelli. 1901. Lire 10.

There is perhaps no writer of modern Italy from whom we differ in a more whole-hearted fashion than Carducci, and yet there is no writer to whom we would more willingly accord the epithet "great". Carducci is a great poet, not merely the greatest of living Italian poets, but perhaps the greatest of all living poets. Therefore we gladly call the attention of our readers to the complete edition of his poetry issued last December (bound for a wonder) by his faithful publisher, Nicola Zanichelli of Bologna. It will, however, be almost in vain for them to endeavour to secure the book at the published price, for the first edition was exhausted in a few days, and a printed announcement informs us that the second edition will not be ready until next April. English admirers of Carducci will do well to be on the look out for it if they desire to possess the great poet in a handy, elegant, and complete form. We may mention in passing that Carducci has the first and second parts of an article on the evolution of the Ode in Italy in the "Nuova Antologia" of 1 and 16 January.

La Madonna e i Santi. By Matilde Serao. Naples: Trani. 1902. Lire 4.

Mme. Serao's last work is interesting as showing a further stage in the metamorphosis of her mind to which we alluded in our review of "Suor Giovanna della Croce" (17 April, 1901). The book is certainly abnormally emotional, and yet is saved from exaggeration by curiously recurrent currents of common-sense which may be felt rather than defined. The little sketches of the Madonna in her popular aspects, of the principal Church festivals, of a great variety of saints from S. Gabriel the Archangel to S. Pascal Baylon the shepherd-boy, are all drawn with a loving sympathetic hand, and betray a tolerant and enlightened understanding of the religious beliefs and practices of the emotional South. Mme. Serao's earlier

(Continued on page 214.)

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exotic romances have been translated into English, and have met with considerable success. But in this book she is quite at an opposite extreme, and it would be interesting beyond measure to watch the course of its reception in an English dress.

Gli Ultimi Giorni della Repubblica di Genova e la Comunità di Novi. By F. Trucco. Milan: Aliprando. 1901. Lire 4.

This book contains an elaborately minute account of the fall of the ancient Republic of Genoa, beginning with the visit of Josephine Buonaparte in 1796, whose presence in the Republic the author seems satisfactorily to prove to be due entirely to motives of political intrigue, and not to the baser motives which have been assigned to her visit. There is much about the Commune of Novi on which Signor Trucco has already published two books ("Novi and Napoleon Buonaparte", 1898; "The Battle of Novi", 1899). His work is conscientiously done and is valuable for the matter adduced from original documents, but his style is not of the kind that leads the reader easily and insensibly forward.

Socialismo contro Socialismo. By Giuseppe Zoppola. Milan: Cogliati. 1901. Lire 3.

This little book is thoroughly interesting and very suggestive. The first "socialismo" on the cover is printed in red letters, the second in black, and the book does to a certain extent deal with red or State socialism and black or Catholic socialism. The destructive part of the book is well done. It is in the constructive side of his work that the author is weak. While realising (p. 109) that a good political constitution is an effect of a sound and healthy nation and not the cause of its well-being, he yet comes forward himself with something like a nostrum. The modern commune is too large an entity for him, and he would divide its inhabitants into "corporations". A province is still to be composed of communes; the provincial council is to be elected by the councils of the corporations. The president of the provincial council is to be the governor of the province, but will be elective and not nominated by the king and salaried as is the modern prefect. The author does not for a moment convince us that his nostrum would do a scrap of good, however necessary a reform and reduction of the Italian prefectures may be. In fact his book is an extraordinary amalgam of extravagance and common-sense, of the old and the new, of workmanlike suggestions and flimsy tinkering. He still lives in an atmosphere of haze.

For This Week's Books see page 216.

POWIS EXHIBITIONS.

One Exhibition of the value of £60 a year, tenable at any College or Hall at either of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, is intended to be filled up after an Examination of the Candidates, which will take place at St. Edward's School, Birmingham, on Tuesday, Sept. 23, and the following days, beginning at 2 P.M. on Sept. 23.

Candidates are requested to send their Names, Addresses, and Certificates of Baptism, with Testimonials of Conduct and Character, on or before Aug. 1, to Major A. T. FISHER, The Hermitage, Bemerton, Salisbury.

Candidates must be Members of the Church of England, Natives of Wales or of one of the four Welsh Dioceses, **under 20 years of age upon Oct. 10 next**, acquainted with the Welsh Language, **and intending to become Candidates for Holy Orders.**

The Candidates will be examined by W. E. Heitland, Esq., M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, and the Rev. G. Hartwell-Jones, M.A., Nutfield Rectory, Redhill, Surrey, in—

1. Welsh Reading, Composition, and Speaking.
2. Greek Testament—The Gospel according to St. Luke.
Do. do. The Acts of the Apostles.
3. Greek Unprepared Translation.
4. Latin Unprepared Translation.
5. Latin Prose Composition.
6. The Iliad—Books 13 to 18.
7. The Æneid—Books 7 to 12.
8. Easy Latin Verse Composition.

Those who fail in Welsh will not be further examined.

The exhibition will be tenable (during residence) for four years, by an exhibitor who, at the time of his election, is not legally a member of either University, and will, in his case, date from matriculation; and by an exhibitor who, at the time of his election, is legally member of either University, till the close of the term in which the degree of Bachelor of Arts is due to the holder.

In order to avoid unnecessary correspondence, intending candidates are requested to understand that no abatement of the qualifications necessary for their candidature, as above set forth, can be entertained.

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This Stock will be in addition to, and will rank *pari passu* with, the Nottingham Corporation £3 per Cent. Redeemable Stock already existing.

The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 7th June, 1900, but may be redeemed at par, at the option of the Corporation, on or after the 7th June, 1900, upon three calendar months' notice having been given by public advertisement, should the same not have been previously cancelled, either by purchase in the open market, or by agreement with the Stockholders.

The Stock is chargeable upon the Borough and District Fund, and the Borough and General District Rate, which latter is unlimited in amount; and also upon the Gas, Water, and other Undertakings of the Corporation, and the revenue of their real estates.

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Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent., will be received at the Chief Cashier's Office, and at the Dividend Pay Office (Rotunda), Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. In case of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid as deposit will be applied towards the payment of the first instalment. Should there be a surplus after making that payment, such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications must be for multiples of £10, but the Stock once inscribed will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny, as in Consols. No allotment will be made of a less amount than £10 Stock.

The dates at which the further payments on account of the Loan will be required are as follows:—

On Tuesday, the 4th March, £31 per cent.;

On Friday, the 4th April, £30 per cent.;

On Thursday, the 8th May, £30 per cent.;

but the instalments may be paid in full on and after the 4th March, under discount at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposits and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Stock Certificates to bearer, with coupon attached for the Dividend payable 1st May next, will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts.

The Stock will be inscribed in the Bank's books on or after the 8th May, 1902, but Scrip paid in full in anticipation may be inscribed forthwith, or exchanged for Stock Certificates to Bearer, on payment of the usual fees, provided such exchange be effected not later than the 1st October, 1902.

Applications must be on printed forms, which can be obtained at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England; at any of the Branches of the Bank of England; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall & Co., 4 Lombard Street, London, E.C.; or at the Guildhall, Nottingham.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Tuesday, the 18th February, 1902.

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THIS WEEK'S BOOKS.

ART.

The Chatsworth Van Dyck Sketch Book (Lionel Cust). Bell. 42s. net.

"Great Masters in Painting and Sculpture":—Sir David Wilkie (Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower). Bell. 5s. net.

Catalogue of Works of Art Bequeathed to the British Museum by Baron Ferdinand Rothschild (C. H. Read). British Museum: Printed by order of the Trustees.

BIOGRAPHY.

Felicia Skene of Oxford (E. C. Rickards). Murray. 10s. 6d. net.

FICTION.

The Foundered Galleon (Weatherby Chesney). Methuen. 6s.

Fables of the Fair. A. H. Bullen. 3s. 6d.

The Autocrats (Charles K. Lush). Methuen. 6s.

Hospital Sketches (Lucas Galen). Grant Richards. 1s.

The Lord of Corsygedol: a Tale of Welsh Life in the Sixteenth Century (Evan R. Evans). The Griffon Press. 3s. 6d.

The Opportunist (G. E. Mitton). Black. 6s.

The Teller (E. Noyes Westcott). Pearson. 3s. 6d. net.

The Lover Fugitives (John Finnemore). Pearson. 6s.

The Curse of the Snake (Guy Boothby). White. 5s.

Drift (L. T. Meade); Out of the Cypress Swamp (Edith Rickert). Methuen. 6s. each.

For England (Mortice Gerard). Ward, Lock. 6s.

The Old Bank (William Westall). Chatto and Windus. 6s.

GEOLOGY.

The Scenery of England and the Causes to which it is due (Lord Avebury). Macmillan. 15s. net.

HISTORY.

Five Stuart Princesses (Edited by Robert S. Rait). Constable. 12s. 6d. net.

China and the Powers: a Narrative of the Outbreak of 1900 (H. C. Thomson). Longmans. 10s. 6d. net.

A Short History of the British in India (Arthur D. Innes). Methuen. 7s. 6d.

Stories from English History: The Hanoverian Period, 1714-1837. Bell. 1s. 6d.

Modern Europe. Vol. V.: 1789-1815. Vol. VI.: 1815-1900 (T. H. Dyer and Arthur Hassall. Third Edition). Bell. 6s. net each.

History of Russia from Peter the Great to Alexander II. (W. R. Morfill). Methuen. 7s. 6d.

LAW.

Gleanings from the Wisdom of Lord Watson (Compiled by R. M. Williams). Glasgow: Hodge. 3s. 6d.

THEOLOGY.

The French Associations Law (John Gerard, S.J.). Longmans. 1s. net.

Arundel Hymns (Edited by the Duke of Norfolk and Charles T. Gatty). Published by the Editors.

The Chief Truths of the Christian Faith (J. Stephenson). Methuen. 3s. 6d.

TRAVEL.

Jamaica and the Direct West India Mail Service (Thomas Rhodes). Philip. 6d.

VERSE.

Ballads and Lyrics (Bliss Carman). A. H. Bullen. 6s.

Lays of the "True North" and other Canadian Poems (Agnes M. Machar. Second Edition). Stock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aspirate, The (Rev. Geoffrey Hill). Unwin. 3s. 6d. net.

Dante Studies and Researches (Paget Toynbee). Methuen. 10s. 6d. net.

Dante's Paradiso ("The Little Library"). Methuen. 1s. 6d. net.

Eton Calendar, The. Spottiswoode. 2s.

Kiss, The, and its History (Christopher Nyrop. Translated by W. F. Harvey). Sands. 7s. 6d. net.

Land of the Wine, The (A. J. Drexel Biddle. 2 vols. Second Edition). Philadelphia and San Francisco: Drexel Biddle. \$7.50 net.

Mastersingers (Filson Young). Reeves.

Novels of William Harrison Ainsworth:—Tower of London (2 vols.). Gibbings. 5s. net.

Old Diaries, 1881-1901 (Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower). Murray. 15s. net.

Second Century Satirist, A: Dialogues and Stories from Lucian of Samosata (Translated by W. D. Sheldon). Philadelphia and San Francisco: Drexel Biddle. \$1.50 net.

Speeches on Canada by the Fourth Earl of Carnarvon (Edited by Sir Robert Herbert). Murray. 7s. 6d. net.

Story of the Inter-University Boatrace, The (Wadham Peacock). Grant Richards. 2s.

Works of Lord Byron: Vol. V.: Poetry (Edited by S. H. Coleridge). Murray. 6s.

Works of Shakespeare: Julius Cæsar (Edited by Michael Macmillan). Methuen. 3s. 6d.

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES FOR FEBRUARY:—The World's Work, 25c.; The Eastern Counties Magazine, 1s. 6d. net.; The Classical Review, 1s. 6d.; The Atlantic Monthly, 1s.; The Law Magazine, 5s.; The Library, 3s.; The Bibliographer, 75c.; The Bookseller, 6d.; L'Occident (Paris), 1fr.; East and West; Current Literature, 25c.

Filosofia y Letras, Buenos Aires (Noviembre and Diciembre).

The Pilot.

The First of Two Articles by The Bishop Elect of Worcester, on "The Problem of the Fourth Gospel," will appear in "The Pilot" of Saturday, February 22.

THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

A Monthly Record and Review.

No. 391 for FEBRUARY.

THREE THEORIES OF THE CURRICULUM—CLASSICAL, MODERN, HERBERTIAN. J. J. Findley.

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GELDENHUIS ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

The THIRTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Shareholders in the above Company will be held in the Board Room, Exploration Buildings, Johannesburg, on TUESDAY, the 22nd day of APRIL, 1902, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purposes following:—

1. To receive the Directors' and Auditors' Reports, Statement of Liabilities and Assets, and Profit and Loss Accounts for the years ending
31st December, 1899,
31st December, 1900,
31st December, 1901.

2. To Elect Two Directors, in the place of Messrs. Paul Dreyfus and W. H. Rogers, who retire in terms of Clause 87 of the Trust Deed, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

3. The Election of Auditors, and to fix their remuneration for past audits.

4. To transact any other Business which is brought under consideration by the Report of the Directors, and for General Business.

In terms of Clause 88 of the Trust Deed, nominations in writing for the office of Director must be left at the Head Office, or any of the Branch Offices of the Company, at least Fifty Clear Days before the Meeting.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer who desire to be present or represented at the meeting, must deposit their Shares at the places and within the times stated below:—

At the Head Office, Grusonwerk Buildings, Johannesburg, at least 24 hours previous to the time appointed for holding the meeting.

At the following Offices up to the 19th March, 1902:—London Office of the Company, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C. Crédit Lyonnais, Boulevard des Italiens, Paris.

At any Branch of the Crédit Lyonnais in France up to the 18th day of March, 1902.

The Share Warrants so deposited with the London Office and Crédit Lyonnais and Branches will be released on the 31st day of March, 1902.

By Order,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

14th February, 1902.

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AUSTRALIANS - - -

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The ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE of DECEMBER 28, 1901, contained an interesting article on the work done by the Australians in the South African War, also treating semi-humorously with the exaggerated notion which largely holds in Australia that the troops from that country did all the hard work, while our own looked on.

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DIVIDEND NO. 6.

DIVIDEND ON SHARES TO BEARER.—Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are informed that they will receive payment, on or after Wednesday, 19th February, 1902, of Dividend No. 6 (50 per cent., i.e. 10s. per Share) after surrender of Coupon No. 6 at the London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., or at the Head Office at Johannesburg.

Coupons must be left Four Clear Days for examination, and may be lodged any day (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of Eleven and Two.

Listing Forms may be had on application.

By order,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

11th February, 1902.

ROBINSON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND No. 19.

DIVIDEND ON SHARES TO BEARER.—Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are informed that they will receive payment, on or after Wednesday, 19th February, 1902, of Dividend No. 19 (5 per cent., i.e. 5s. per Share), after surrender of Coupon No. 19, either at the London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., or at the Head Office at Johannesburg.

Coupons must be left Four Clear Days for examination at either of the Offices mentioned above, and may be lodged any day (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of Eleven and Two.

Listing Forms may be had on application.

By order,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office, 120 Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

11th February 1902.

The List of Applications for Shares will Open on Friday, the 14th day of February, 1902, and will Close on Tuesday, the 18th Day of February, 1902, for both Town and Country.

RHODESIA, LIMITED,

INVITE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED ISSUE.

THE Wareleigh (Rhodesia) Development Company, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 TO 1900.)

CAPITAL £250,000

In 250,000 Shares of £1 each,

OF WHICH

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T. H. HIRSCHLER, Esq., Managing Director Rhodesia, Limited, Chairman.
Hon. MAURICE R. GIFFORD, C.M.G., Director Selukwe Gold Mining Company, Limited.
W. D. SNEDDON, Esq., Director Rice Hamilton Exploration Syndicate, Limited.
T. M. THACKTHWAITE, Esq., Director Rhodesia Exploration and Development Company, Limited.

MANAGERS IN RHODESIA.

RHODESIA, LIMITED.
HENRY A. PRINGLE, Esq., Consulting Engineer.

SECRETARY.

R. F. MASTERTON, Esq.

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MANCHESTER: MEWBURN & BARKER, 13 Pall Mall, and Stock Exchange, and at Crossley Street, Halifax.
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AUDITOR.

GEORGE THOMSON, Esq., Chartered Accountant, Bush Lane House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Wareleigh (Rhodesia) Development Company, Limited, has been formed for the purpose of acquiring 495 Mining Claims in the Selukwe District, Matabeland, and all Buildings, Plant, and Tools on the property.

All the properties to be acquired are held under, and subject to the laws and regulations of the British South Africa Company.

The majority of the claims are situated on the northern slope of the Selukwe Range, between Gwelo and the Bonson Camp, and in the vicinity of the main transport roads between those Camps.

The Railway from Bulawayo to Salisbury has been constructed to within five miles of the Guinea Fowl and Ben Nevis Claims, and within 10 miles of the majority of the other claims to be acquired, while the extension of the Railway from Gwelo to the Selukwe District, which is now under consideration, is expected to pass in close proximity to all the properties.

The facilities for mining are excellent, there being an abundant supply of timber and water for all purposes. The gold-bearing formation consists of schist and diorite.

The statements in this Prospectus are based upon information furnished to Rhodesia, Limited, by its managers and agents, and upon the Report by Mr. H. A. Pringle, the Consulting Engineer of Rhodesia, Limited, to the Directors of that Company, dated the 31st of December, 1899, and on subsequent cablegrams, letters and reports received from him and from their Bulawayo office.

DEVELOPMENT.

GUINEA FOWL CLAIMS.—During the War in South Africa, development work has been restricted chiefly to the group of claims known as the "Guinea Fowl," and the results achieved have been of a highly satisfactory character.

On the property, on which there are very large old workings, five shafts have been sunk to the following depths: 46 feet, 120 feet, 112 feet, 82½ feet and 50 feet, and 240 feet of driving has been done, the total footage being 700 feet at the 14th of January, 1902.

No. 1 SHAFT.—The old workings were bottomed at 65 feet, where the reef was 18 inches wide, assaying 33 dwts. per ton. At 87 feet the reef is 18 inches wide, panning 15 dwts. Samples from shaft 66 feet to 95 feet assayed 25 dwts. per ton, over 18 inches.

No. 2 SHAFT.—220 feet deep, driving at that depth 140 feet. The reef varies in the shaft from 9 to 4 feet, and yields an average assay of 21 dwts. The shaft has been retimbered for hauling. The reef at the bottom of the shaft is 4½ inches wide, and pans well. Assays 15 dwts. Manager reports visible gold in the ore.

The latest report received from the property is by a cable, dated Bulawayo, 14th January, 1902, and is as follows:—

"GUINEA FOWL.—No. 2 Shaft, driven North on the reef 34 feet, assays from drive average 28 dwts. per ton by fire assay. Reef is 4½ inches wide. Hay recommends you to continue No. 3 Shaft. Driven South on the reef 90 feet, assays from drive average 9 dwts. per ton by fire assay. Reef is 38 inches wide."

No. 3 SHAFT.—The reef is struck in this shaft at a depth of 25 feet, being 60 inches wide, assaying 25 dwts.

The reef pinched in sinking, but at 55 feet made again, and is now 36 inches wide. Average assay value 8 dwts. 100 feet of driving has been done at the 96 feet level. The average width of the reef over this distance is 3 feet, excellent walls.

No. 4 SHAFT.—Vertical until the reef is struck, and then follows on the underlay to 84½ feet, the reef being left in the hanging wall. The reef is 15 inches wide and pans 8 dwts.

BEN NEVIS REEF.—This reef lies about 2½ miles to the south of the Guinea Fowl. It is also situated on a very extensive series of old workings. A report issued by the former owners, states that a 50 feet shaft has been put down, cutting the reef 18 inches wide at that level. Another shaft has been sunk 30 feet about 400 feet distant. The reef in this shaft is 2 feet 6 inches wide. At the 30 feet level it was 4 feet 6 inches distant, while at the 30 feet level it is only 2 feet, and it appears as if it would join the main lode about 30 feet below. This lode is extremely rich. The property is situated within 300 yards of permanent water, with excellent facilities for working and milling the reef. Timber of a fairly good quality is plentiful.

WARELEIGH CLAIMS.—On this group of claims, although a fair amount of development work has been done, and with such results as to prove them of good prospective value, no development has been undertaken since the commencement of the war. The lack of labour and the enhanced cost of provisions, mining material, &c., rendered it inadvisable to continue development under such adverse conditions. These conditions have now considerably improved, and it is expected that work can be again resumed at an early date.

With regard to these claims, Mr. Pringle, in his Report, dated 31st December, 1899, to Rhodesia, Limited, says:—

"Work has been concentrated on the following five properties:—

"1. Royal Somerset. 2. Paradox. 3. Fairleigh. 4. Dominion. 5. Ophir.

"The first three belong to the Wareleigh group.

"Scarcity of labour has much hindered mining operations; both the Selukwe and Sebakewe districts have suffered more on this account than probably any other district."

ROYAL SOMERSET.—"A large amount of useful work has been done on the 'Royal Somerset,' consisting of three shafts sunk through the old workings and continued on the reef, and also some driving at the 60 feet level in the B Shaft.

"The A Shaft is 134 feet deep.

B " 100 " with 80 feet of driving at the 60 feet level.

C " 75 "

"The old workings are continuous and extensive, and I have every hope that when we get machinery on the ground to deal with the large quantity of water now 'making' in the shafts we shall, by future exploiting, establish the permanent and commercially payable character of the reef beyond reasonable doubt. The results up to date are so satisfactory that but little future work is necessary to justify this group of claims being worked independently as a separate Company as suggested on the next page."

PARADOX, situated adjoining the "Surprise" Mine.—"The reef is proved on the surface by cuttings for a distance of 2,000 feet, two shafts here have been started and sunk to a depth of 90 and 40 feet respectively. Unfortunately a heavy influx of water has retarded progress, but pumps are now on the ground and work will be energetically carried on immediately."

"It is not at all unlikely that in the near future this mine will justify an independent flotation. Its great length of strike and the general structure of the reef itself are excellent indications of permanency, and so far as the amount of work done is concerned, the gold contents are quite satisfactory."

"On 'THE OPHIR' a few trenches have been cut across the line of reef, and a shaft 60 feet sunk, but the indications of good are not particularly strong, and until the labour difficulty is relieved no further work will be done. For the latter reason also 'THE DOMINION' will remain idle, although the prospects are of a somewhat more encouraging nature—a strong well-defined outcrop, and fairly large workings are sufficiently good indications to follow up."

"THE FAIRLEIGH.—A shaft has been sunk here to a depth of 58 feet; the reef is small all the way, averaging about 6 inches; one ounce pannings are obtained over the most of it, and occasionally rich patches of ore are met, but at present I cannot say we have anything payable, and for the time being the work is suspended."

"OTHER BLOCKS.—Work is now being laid out on the 'Pony' blocks, immediately adjoining the 'Royal Somerset.' We hold a group of blocks under the names of 'Tom,' 'Pony,' 'Umiati,' and 'Royal Somerset,' which together form a valuable mining area, and should the last named continue to open up as satisfactorily as it hitherto has done, the whole will comprise a mining venture which can with confidence be put before the public."

The price to be paid by the Company for the property has been fixed by Rhodesia, Limited (Vendors and Promoters of the Company) at £135,000, payable as to £50,000 in cash and as to £85,000 by the allotment to the Vendors of 115,000 shares of 4s. each, credited as fully paid.

The Directors consider that the cash working capital now to be provided is ample for the purchase of mining machinery for the purpose of continuing the development of the Guinea Fowl and the other properties to be acquired, with the view of bringing them forward for flotation as Subsidiary Gold Mining Companies as and when they have been sufficiently developed. £75,000 of the nominal capital of the Company is held in reserve to provide additional working capital, and with the view of enabling this Company to participate in the financing of these contemplated Subsidiary Companies.

The list of contracts, detailed reports, and information required by the Companies Act, 1900, are set out in the full Prospectus, copies of which can be obtained at the office of the Company, or from the Solicitors, Bankers, and Brokers. Application for shares must be made on the form accompanying the full Prospectus.

A copy of the full Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Dated the 12th day of February, 1902.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIRECTORS.

His Highness PRINCE HUSSEIN KAMIL, Chairman.
His Highness PRINCE IBRAHIM HILMI.
THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD, P.C.
His Excellency BOGHOS PACHA NUBAR.
Sir CHARLES B. EUAN-SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., &c.
Sir GERALD FITZGERALD, K.C.M.G.
EDWARD DICEY, Esq., C.B.
Commandeur A. CLICIAN.

MANAGING DIRECTORS.

Messrs. OCHS BROTHERS, London and Paris.

MANAGER IN EGYPT.

Sir JOHN G. ROGERS, K.C.M.G.

TECHNICAL ADVISER.

J. S. BERESFORD, C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E.

GENERAL STAFF.

CAIRO.

J. DEMPSTER, Engineer-in-Chief, RECLAMATION WORKS.

J. VAAST, Engineer.

TH. NASSIF, Local Secretary.

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THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

To be submitted at the Second Annual General Meeting, to be held on the 21st day of February, 1902.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the Second Annual Balance Sheet, for the financial year ended the 31st July, 1901, and to report to the shareholders that the business of the Company is making steady and satisfactory progress. They consider that there is every prospect of a profitable return for the capital hitherto employed, and for that which it is now proposed to call up.

The attention of the Board and its Managers in London and Cairo is mainly concentrated at present on the carrying out of the works in connection with the Nile Reclamation Concession obtained from the Egyptian Government. With regard to this important concession all precautions have been taken in the selection of the sites for reclamation, and the best experts have been employed to examine and report upon each of them; by this means the risks inseparable from all reclamation works have been, as far as possible, reduced to a minimum. Mr. Dempster, the engineer in charge of the Reclamation works, is carrying out these important duties with great energy and ability.

Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff and Colonel Western proceeded early last year to Egypt at the request of the London Board, and advised the Company as to the preliminary works on the first two sites selected for reclamation. Mr. J. S. Beresford, C.I.E., formerly Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, and Inspector General of Irrigation, also at the request of the Board recently completed an exhaustive inspection in Egypt of the various sites proposed by Mr. Dempster for reclamation during the coming season, and has now laid before your Directors a report concerning those sites which he has advised should be undertaken at once, and also as regards future prospective results.

Upon Mr. Beresford's return from Egypt the Board appointed him general technical adviser to the Company. The Directors are glad to make this announcement in the belief that Mr. Beresford's great experience in hydraulic engineering

as well as in irrigation and land reclamation will be of the highest service. By the terms of his agreement Mr. Beresford has undertaken to pay visits to Egypt when occasion should arise.

The Directors are able to report that the first site selected for reclamation at Sohag has given satisfactory results, and that a considerable portion of the land so far reclaimed has already been let on favourable terms to native cultivators residing in the immediate locality.

A second site at Garf Sarhan was taken in hand during last season on a cheaper plan than that employed at Sohag, in order that the two systems might receive fair trial; experience, however, has shown that that adopted at Sohag, though more expensive than that undertaken at Garf Sarhan, has produced more satisfactory results. Your Directors have therefore decided, for the sites to be reclaimed during the coming season, to employ a system similar to that used at Sohag, but with an important modification advised by Mr. Beresford.

The policy of your Board in connection with the Nile Reclamation scheme is of course to work in cordial co-operation with the Khedivial Government, and to do their utmost to establish friendly relations with the inhabitants in the localities affected by these enterprises.

THE SOUDAN DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.

The Board have already given serious attention to the question of the development of the Soudan, and the Soudan Development and Exploration Company, which was formed last year, has now, with the co-operation of the New African Company, the Oceana Consolidated Company, and the New Egyptian Company, entered upon active operations. An agreement has been entered into between the Soudan Government and the Soudan Development and Exploration Company, whereby the Company has contracted to establish a flotilla of steamers and barges on the Upper Nile to ply southwards from Khartoum on both its confluences, Blue and White Nile, as trade develops. There is now on the White Nile an open waterway as far south as Lado.

In return for this service the Soudan authorities have guaranteed the Company against any loss incurred in the development of this steamer business, and have undertaken to pay interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on the capital outlay up to a maximum amount of £50,000 for the next ten years.

Every precaution has been taken by the Board to ensure the selection of the best type of boat, and a first order has been placed for one Sternwheel Steamer and two Sternwheel Barges.

The reports which your Directors have received from time to time from the Soudan confirm their hope that, as soon as steam communications by water are established between Khartoum and the Soudan Provinces, there should be a fair field open for the judicious investment of money in that tract of country.

ABYSSINIA.

In Abyssinia your Company, in co-operation with the New African Company and Oceana Consolidated Company, has engaged in the financing of the Railway which is in course of construction from the port of Djibouti in French Somaliland. The whole interests of the above-named British Companies have now been vested in the International Ethiopian Railway Trust and Construction Company, Limited. The latter Company has been pursuing a policy whose object is to establish friendly co-operation between English and French commercial interests in Abyssinia, their desire being to connect the trunk line with some British port on the Somali coast in the same way as it is now connected with Djibouti. The Company has always aimed at obtaining the support of both England and France in carrying out this policy, which is obviously calculated to avoid any international jealousies. There can be no question that as railway communications are opened up in Abyssinia, there will also be great scope for the investment of European capital, and, whenever it is deemed desirable, the New Egyptian Company should have exceptional facilities for taking up lucrative business in this hitherto undeveloped country.

GENERAL.

The Company is examining several other proposals which have been submitted to its consideration in Cairo.

In view of the increasing business of the New Egyptian Company, and especially in view of the preliminary expenses involved in the extension of the Reclamation Works, the Directors have decided to make a further call of 2/6 per share.

By Order of the Board,

R. DORAN HOLTZ, Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st July, 1901.

Dr.		Cr.
To Capital—		
Authorised:		
500,000 Shares of £1 each.. ..	£ 500,000 0 0	
Issued:		
150,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 75, 6d. per		
Share has been called up	56,250 0 0	
Less:		
Amount of Calls unpaid	2,581 5 0	
Sundry Creditors	53,668 15 0	
Contingent Liability on Shares held	4,587 5 0	
	£ 58,256 0 5	
By cash at Bankers and in hand—		
London and Cairo		1,400 17 5
Sundry Loans		4,849 10 10
Sundry Shares and Investments		27,128 9 10
Sundry Debtors		2,154 10 5
Reclamation Schemes—		
Expenses in connection with the site "Sohag,"		
to date	4,185 13 10	
Expenses in connection with the site "Garf		
Sarhan," to date	2,092 14 11	
Establishment Account re Reclamation of Land,		
to date	1,712 19 9	
Preliminary Expenses Account, to date	895 9 0	
General Account, to date	2,479 17 4	
		11,296 14 10
Office Furniture Account—		
London	31 11 4	
Cairo	358 5 4	
		389 16 8
Preliminary Expenses Account		1,434 12 6
Income and Expenditure Account—		
Balance, as per last Account, 31st July, 1900 ..	4,451 7 10	
Salaries, Office, and other Expenses in London,		
Paris, and Cairo	5,735 18 10	
Directors' Fees Account	1,500 0 0	
		11,687 6 8
Less:		
Interest received on Stock Exchange Loans,		
Debentures, &c.	1,085 18 9	
		10,601 7 11
		£ 58,256 0 5

G. FITZGERALD, } Directors.
EDWARD DICEY, }
R. DORAN HOLTZ, Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and we report to the Shareholders that we have audited the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Accounts relating thereto in London and the Accounts received from Egypt, and, in our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books of the Company.

London, 10th February, 1902.

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